



# Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site



MANAGEMENT PLAN

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DEPARTMENT OF ARTS, HERITAGE, REGIONAL,  
RURAL AND GAELTACHT AFFAIRS  
National Monuments Service  
Custom House,  
Dublin 1  
D01 W6XO

Tel: 01 888 2000  
LoCall 1890 202021  
E-mail: [worldheritageireland@ahg.gov.ie](mailto:worldheritageireland@ahg.gov.ie)

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Images were provided by the following: Photographic Unit (DAHG): Figs 1, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16., 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 39, 41, 42 and 43; Ann Lynch: Fig. 13; Claire Tuffy: Fig 29. Matthew and Geraldine Stout: Figs 5, 6, 9, 19, 38, and 40. Katie McFarland and Debbie Lawlor of DAHRRGA: Figs 2-4; The Discovery Programme and Meath County Council: Fig 44.



# Foreword



Brú na Bóinne is one of the world's most important archaeological landscapes, a fact that was recognised through its designation as a World Heritage Site in 1993 by UNESCO.

The archaeological ensemble of Brú na Bóinne, which covers some 780 hectares, with a buffer area of 2,500 hectares surrounding it, contains many outstanding archaeological features, notably its megalithic art, the large and varied grouping of monuments and evidence of continuous settlement and activity in the area for some 7,000 years.

One of the requirements for a World Heritage Site designation is having in place a comprehensive Management Plan. Recent developments have underlined the need for a structured approach to the management and protection of this unique area. Much of the emphasis in the long period of consultation has been to attempt to balance the protection of this site with the needs and aspirations of its residents and of other important stakeholders in the area. To this end I am happy that all parties are participating in ongoing discussions with local communities and I look forward to the continuation of this engagement during the lifetime of this Plan.

This Plan which has a ten year lifespan, with a review after 5 years, sets out to address the many complex issues that inevitably arise at a site of the importance of Brú na Bóinne. It provides comprehensive information on various aspects of the site, including its management history, its resources, visitor management policies and the concerns expressed by stakeholders during the management consultation process. Drawing on this information base, the Plan proposes a total of 101 actions under 18 different headings. While many of the key objectives reflect what is happening on the ground today, there are a number of new measures being proposed particularly in the area of research and local involvement.

The initial draft of this Plan was developed by a multi-disciplinary team drawn from the archaeologists, architects and administration of my Department together with the conservation architects, administrators and guide service of the Office of Public Works. However, conscious that Brú na Bóinne, as well as being an important archaeological ensemble, is a living landscape, my Department also engaged in an extensive public consultation process. This process has directly influenced the shape of the final draft of the Plan and I would like to take the opportunity to thank all who took the time to make their views known.

I believe that the publication of this Management Plan is an essential step towards the continued success of the Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site and I look forward to the implementation of the actions recommended in the Plan.



Heather Humphreys T.D.

Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs



# Introduction

# Chapter 1 Introduction

## A Vision Statement for Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site

*To protect, conserve and promote the Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site by putting in place a management framework that will ensure its Outstanding Universal Value is maintained and enhanced for present and future generations. This will include promotion of the site as a resource for research and learning, and protection of its status as a world-class visitor experience. It will be a focus for achieving sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits for local communities.*

### 1.1 INTRODUCTION TO THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Brú na Bóinne, or the 'Archaeological Ensemble of the Bend of the Boyne', was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1993 and refers to the complex of archaeological monuments located in a distinct U-shaped bend formed by the River Boyne c. 4.8km west of the town of Drogheda (Fig. 1). The property, located in County Meath, but contiguous with a portion of the Louth county boundary, is characterised by a number of distinct topographical zones and some of the most prestigious monuments in the country. The international significance of Brú na Bóinne has been gradually revealed through a process of discovery and research which began over 300 years ago.

### 1.2 PURPOSE OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site Management Plan (2017) sets out the key objectives and vision for the management of the World Heritage Site (WHS). The Management Plan provides a framework for the proactive management of the site, helping to ensure that its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) is sustained and preserved for future generations. The site must have an adequate protection and management system to ensure its safeguarding (OG78). The Management Plan will inform and guide the day-to-day and long-term management of

Brú na Bóinne. It will be a working document, open to periodic review, with additions and amendments made as conditions change.

The Plan will employ the principles put forward in the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (2013)* and those of *Managing Cultural World Heritage (2013)* and will include a values-led approach, and delivery of management which anticipates and manages change.

The Management Plan is not a statutory document and does not supersede the responsibilities of individual partner organisations and bodies. However, in order for the Plan to be effective, the partner organisations should ensure that it is reflected in their own strategic and statutory plans as these are prepared, reviewed and implemented over the lifetime of this Plan.

### 1.3 PREPARATION OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN (2017)

According to the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* issued by the World Heritage Centre (July 2013), every site inscribed on the World Heritage List must have a Management Plan that explains how the OUV of a prop-



erty will be preserved, how the management will be focused on sustainable development (where possible through participatory means) and how the site can be protected for present and future generations.

The Brú na Bóinne Management Plan (2016) has been drafted in accordance with these guidelines. It will include:

- A thorough shared understanding of the property by all stakeholders;
- A cycle of Planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and feedback;
- The monitoring and assessment of the impacts of trends, changes, and of proposed interventions;
- The involvement of partners and stakeholders;
- The allocation of necessary resources;
- Capacity-building;
- An accountable, transparent description of how the management system functions (OG111).

The Management Plan has been produced by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (DAHRRGA), in conjunction with the

Office of Public Works (OPW) following consultation with a range of relevant public bodies, advisory bodies, non-governmental organisations' (NGO) interest groups, stakeholders and the local community. In accordance with United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) requirements, the main responsibility for the implementation of the Management Plan is shared between the DAHRRGA and the OPW.

The Plan does not set out to provide a comprehensive contextual history or physical analysis of the WHS. Such information can be found in a range of other documents, publications and references including the Brú na Bóinne Management Plan 2002 and the *Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site, Research Framework* (Smyth 2009).

### 1.3.1 Brú na Bóinne WHS Management Plan Steering Committee

The Brú na Bóinne WHS Management Plan Steering Committee was established under the auspices of the DAHG in 2011 to help oversee the preparation of the Management Plan.



Fig. 1: Aerial view looking south-west with Knowth in centre background

## 10 Brú na Bóinne Management Plan 2017

The Steering Committee included officials from the DAHRRGA and the OPW, as well as representatives from Louth County Council, Meath County Council, Fáilte Ireland, the Heritage Council, the International Council on Monuments and Sites Ireland (ICOMOS Ireland), An Taisce—the National Trust for Ireland and local interest groups. (See Appendix 1 for list of members.)

### 1.3.2 Stakeholder and Public Consultation

The preparation of this Management Plan took place over four years during which there were two periods of public consultation.

#### **First Public Consultation:**

In April 2011 submissions were invited from the public as part of the preparation of a new draft Management Plan for the Brú na Bóinne WHS. A public meeting was held on-site on 23 June 2011 in order to improve community awareness of the Management Plan. A consultation paper and a draft framework document were uploaded to the World Heritage Ireland website [www.worldheritageireland.ie](http://www.worldheritageireland.ie). The final closing date for submissions was 30 September 2011. Concerns raised by stakeholders are recorded in Appendix 2.

Fifty-seven submissions were received by DAHG, all of which were considered in the drafting of the new Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site Management Plan. The relevant issues identified in the submissions are presented in Appendix 2.

#### **Second Public Consultation:**

The National Monuments Service (NMS) within DAHG took over the role of focal point in the third quarter of 2013 and a second round of consultation began in 2014. A list of the concerns of stakeholders is given in Appendix 3. These concerns have been addressed, except in cases where the requested actions are the responsibility of another organisation, or in cases where the requested action could impact on the OUV of the site. The reasons for either agreeing or not agreeing to a proposed action are given in Appendix 3.

While it is accepted that: “A shared understanding of the property and its significance by all stakeholders and their involvement in management processes can radically change how the functions of a management system are

discharged. It makes heritage processes more responsive and delivers outputs and outcomes that are better aligned with the actual needs of the property and its stakeholders” (Managing Cultural World Heritage, 60), the State Party must ensure that a participative approach does not deliver any outcome which might have a negative impact on the OUV of the property.

## 1.4 THE STRUCTURE OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Management Plan addresses cultural and natural heritage issues in an integrated manner and strives to achieve a balance between conservation of the built and natural heritage, visitor management and increased public awareness. While managing this cultural landscape and preserving its OUV we must look to the economic wellbeing of the population of the WHS. These are the people who have not only helped preserve its values, but know and understand these landscapes from a unique, insiders’ perspective. The Management Plan has been divided into three sections with seven basic components:

### **PART 1**

**Chapter 1:** Introduction – Details the structure, content and purpose of the Management Plan.

**Chapter 2:** Brú na Bóinne Location and Description – Describes the WHS, its archaeology, built heritage and natural heritage.

**Chapter 3:** Significance of Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site – Describes the significance of the WHS, stating the OUV and justifying its inscription as a WHS.

### **PART 2**

**Chapter 4:** Management and Policy Framework– Outlines the statutory and non-statutory policies regulating the protection of the WHS.

**Chapter 5:** Current Management Systems – Details the current management systems.

### **PART 3**

**Chapter 6:** Issues, Objectives and actions – Lists key management objectives, issues and actions.

**Chapter 7:** Implementing the Brú na Bóinne Management Plan (2016) – Outlines an implementation and monitoring strategy for the WHS.



# Part 1

## Chapter 2 Brú na Bóinne Location and Description

### 2.1 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF BRÚ NA BÓINNE WHS

#### 2.1.1 Location and Setting

Brú na Bóinne is located predominantly in County Meath but the Buffer Zone also extends partly into County Louth (NGR O008727; longitude W 6°24' to W 6°30'; latitude N 53°40' to N 53°43'). It is located 4.8km west of the medieval port town of Drogheda and almost the same distance to the east of the 18th-century village of Slane (Fig. 2). There are 247 monuments currently recorded within the WHS; 154 in the Core Area and 93 in the Buffer Zone (Fig. 3; Appendix 4). The WHS is to a large extent bounded by the River Boyne to the south and to the north by its

tributary, the River Mattock. The WHS also includes areas of Natural Heritage including a section of the River Boyne which is both a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and a Special Protection Area (SPA) (Fig. 4; Appendix 5).

The legal basis on which SACs are selected and designated is the EU HABITATS DIRECTIVE, transposed into Irish law by Statutory Instruments SI233/1998 and SI378/2005 in 1998 and 2005. The Directive lists certain habitats and species that must be protected within SACs. Irish habitats include raised bogs, blanket bogs, turloughs, sand dunes, machair (flat sandy plains on the north and west coasts), heaths, lakes, rivers, woodlands, estuaries and sea inlets. The 25 Irish species which must be afforded protection

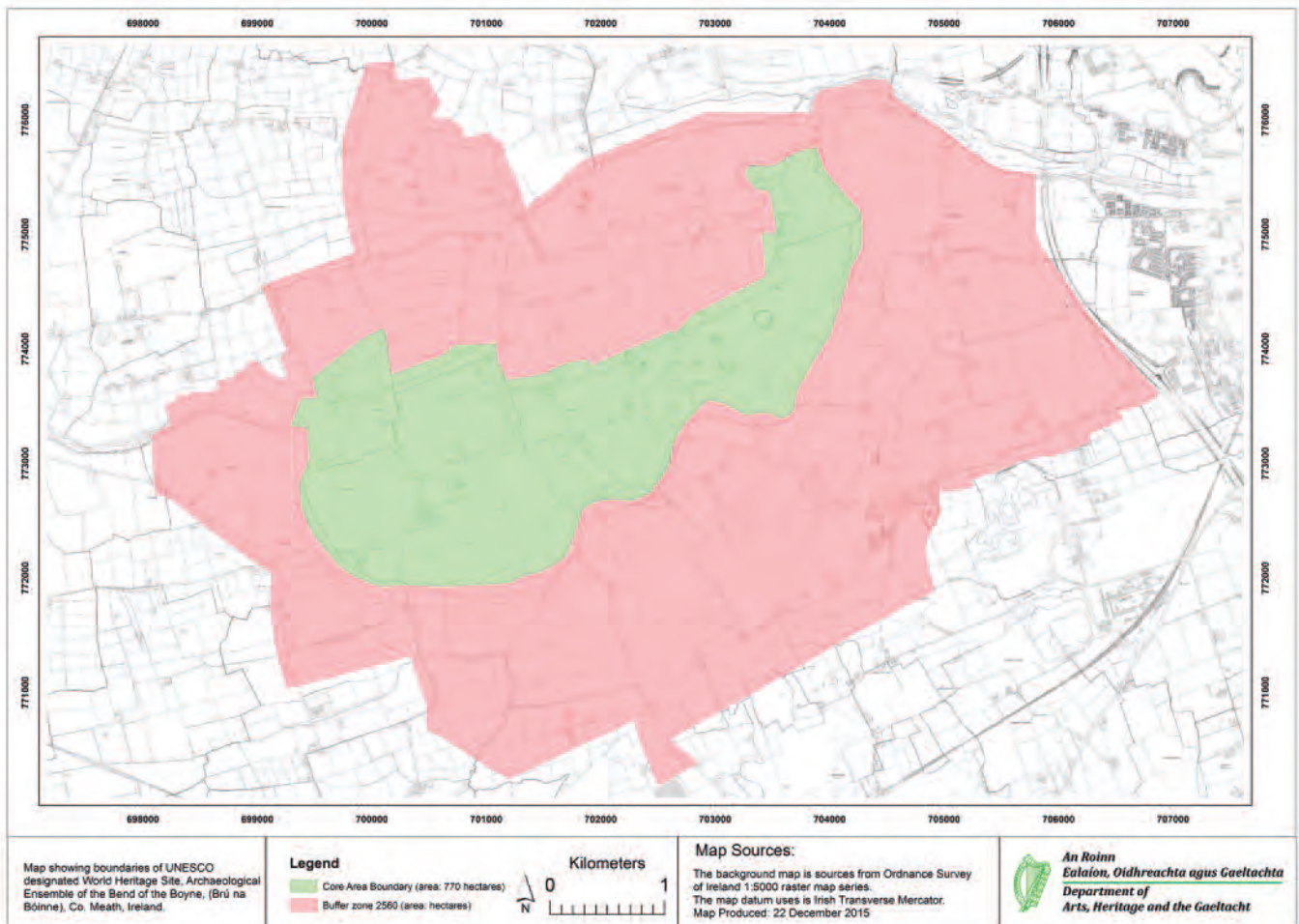


Fig. 2: Core Area and Buffer Zone map of WHS

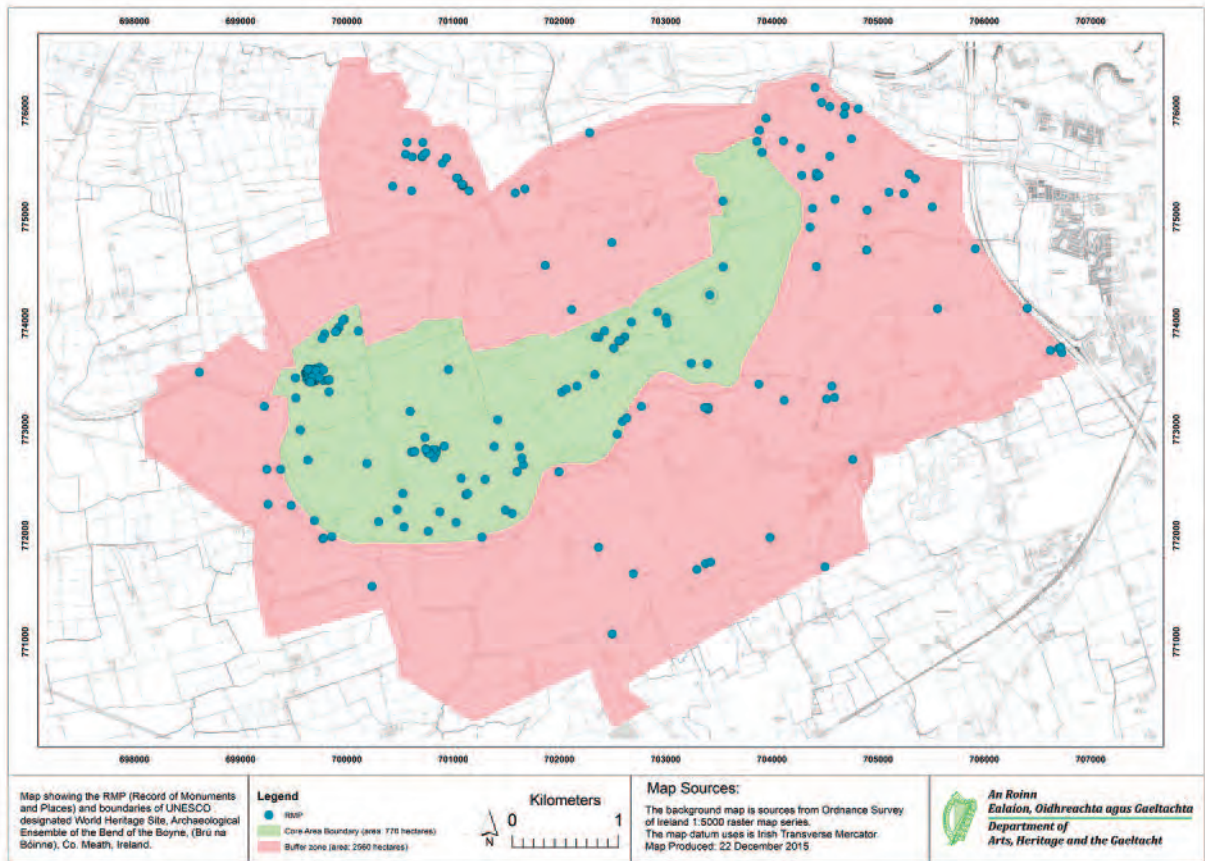


Fig. 3: Sites and Monuments record for Brú na Bóinne

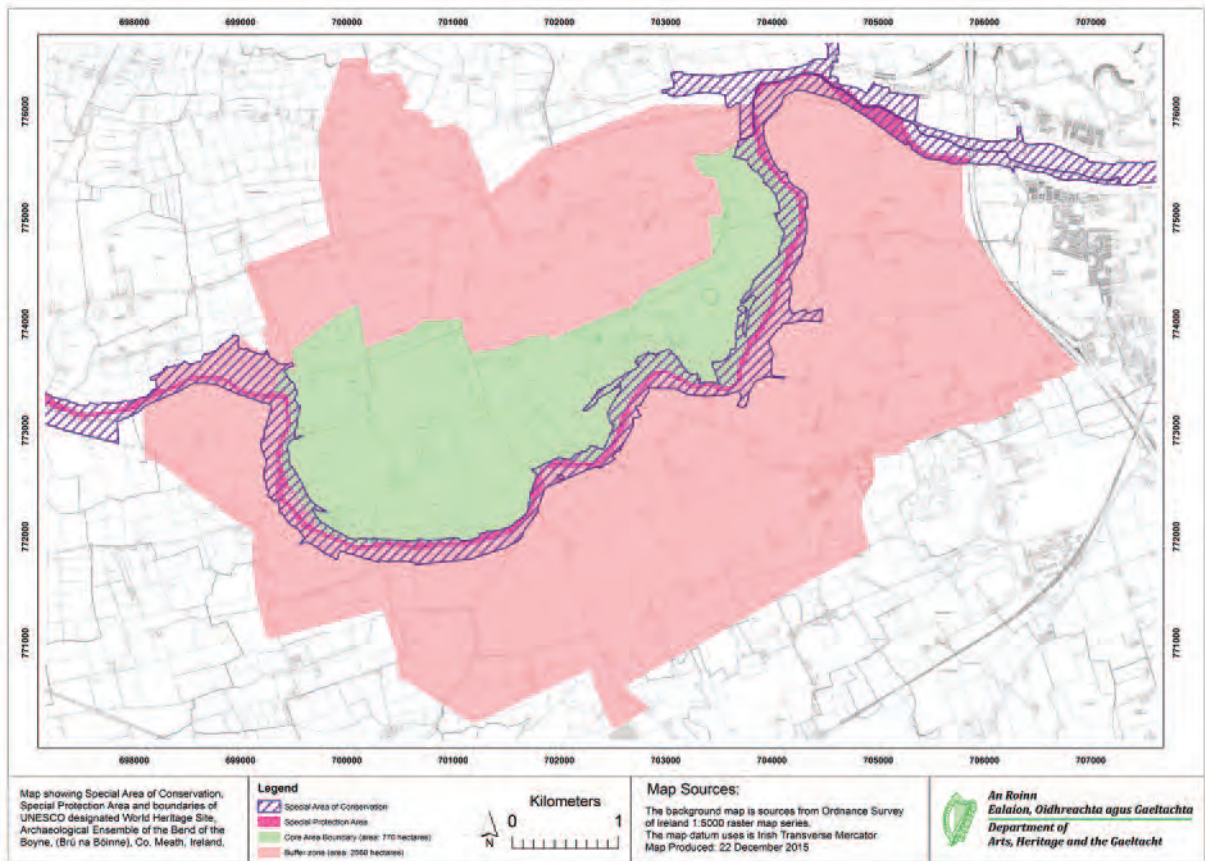


Fig. 4: Natural Heritage designations within Core Area and Buffer Zone of the World Heritage Site



Fig. 5: Site location map

include salmon, otter, freshwater pearl mussel, bottlenose dolphin and Killarney fern.

### ***Ireland's obligations under The EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)***

Ireland is required under the terms of the EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) to designate SPAs for the protection of endangered species of wild birds:

- Listed rare and vulnerable species;
- Regularly occurring migratory species, such as ducks, geese and waders;
- Wetlands, especially those of international importance, which attract large numbers of migratory birds each year.

The SACs together with the SPAs form Natura 2000, a network of protected areas or European Sites throughout the EU.

#### **2.1.2 World Heritage Site Boundary**

The WHS comprises approximately 780 hectares contained within the bend of the River Boyne. This Core Area is situated entirely within the county of Meath, and comprises the townlands of Knowth, Dowth, Newgrange, Proudfootstown and Glebe (Fig. 2).

The Buffer Zone, comprising approximately 2,500 hectares, extends to the River Mattock in the north and includes the River Boyne itself to the south and extends to the ridgeline of an escarpment that overlooks the Core Area. The boundaries of the Buffer Zone were set having taken into account views into and out of the WHS.

Both the Core Area and the Buffer Zone (Fig. 5) are recognised in the Meath County Development Plan 2013–2019 (formulated in accordance with the Planning and Development Acts 2000–2014), where protection against undesirable development is the stated objective. The Meath Development Plan 2013–2019 states that “Within the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne, and in particular the Core Area, with the exception of one-off houses for those with a clear local need based on agriculture, other new development will be limited to carefully designed and sited agricultural buildings, sensitively designed extensions to existing developments for the provision of public services, the restoration of the Boyne Towpath for recreational purposes inclusive of associated

necessary infrastructure, replacement buildings comparable in scale to those being removed, and minor works such as small extensions to existing domestic dwellings”. The Louth County Development Plan 2015–2025 also references the WHS. Its policies are very similar to those of Meath County Council although the area of its responsibility is entirely in the Buffer Zone.

The Management Plan, in acting to protect the WHS, will also play an important role in protecting the natural heritage of the River Boyne SAC (see 2.6 below).

## **2.2 LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION**

Brú na Bóinne is a cultural landscape formed by people and nature. The archaeological site is continuous throughout the Core Area and Buffer Zones. The landscape has both visible and below-surface sites and features of pre-historic, early medieval, medieval and post-medieval date, bearing testimony to continuous habitation for over 5,000 years. There is also a group of 18th- to 21st-century buildings within the WHS associated with farming and country house activities.

Guidelines such as Good Farming Practice and Archaeology (DEHLG 2003) promote working in partnership with individual landowners and, together with the National Landscape Strategy for Ireland, 2015–2025 (DAHG 2015), they provide the starting point for the discussion and development of a setting and landscape strategy over the timespan of the Management Plan.

The WHS is sited in the lower reaches of the valley of the River Boyne where the watercourse follows a large U-shaped bend and encompasses a series of low knolls to the north and to the south, with higher ground at its eastern edge near Dowth. The large passage tombs are sited on high ground overlooking the valley, while there are numerous other archaeological sites on the low-lying terraces and the floodplain flanking the river. The river is species-rich with noted salmonid waters and, along with adjacent habitats, is designated as both an SAC and an SPA. The diverse range of agricultural practices in the area has created an attractive mosaic of mixed farmland ranging from intensive arable to permanent pasture. Many of the historic hedgerows and field boundaries survive and are a key element of the landscape and there are also areas of deciduous woodland.

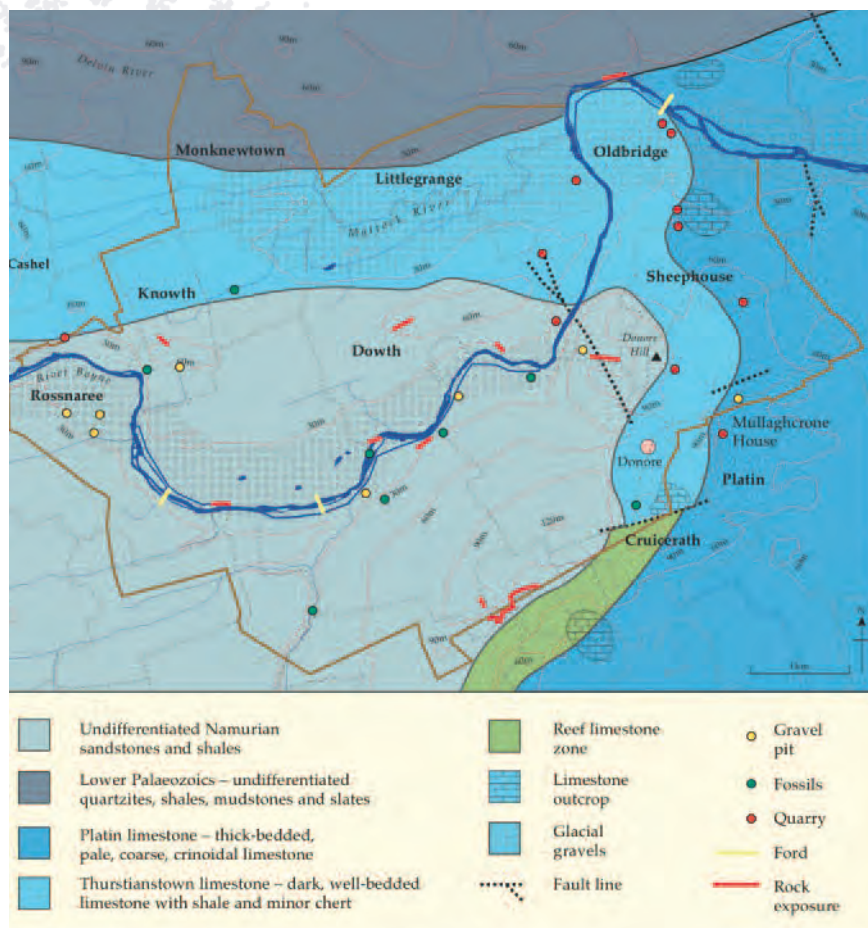


Fig. 6: Geology

### 2.3 CLIMATE

Brú na Bóinne is situated within one of Ireland’s driest areas and possesses a maritime climate associated with the Gulf Stream which helps to moderate temperatures. The average humidity is high and the prevailing winds are south-westerly to north-westerly. This climate has been favourable to agriculture and settlement from Neolithic times through to the present day.

### 2.4 GEOLOGY AND GEOMORPHOLOGY

The geology of Brú na Bóinne is characterised by underlying Carboniferous limestone with a low ridge of shale and its derivatives making up most of the WHS. Much of the soil is alluvial and highly suitable for grazing and tillage. The River Boyne, which is 105km long, is one of the main catchment drainage channels to the Irish Sea. At Brú na Bóinne the river is at the lower plain stage; a number of tributaries and streams join it in the Core Area, which is subject to winter flooding. The physical processes of glaciation and deglaciation, which transformed this land-

scape during the last Ice Age and created the distinctive ‘Bend of the Boyne’, have left their imprint on the landscape in the form of terminal moraines and terraces. This suite of landforms and sedimentary structures is an important physical resource and can aid public understanding of the physical evolution of the area. Fossil-rich rock outcrops, gravel pits and sections are mapped in Fig. 6.

### 2.5 TOPOGRAPHICAL ZONES

There are five principal topographical zones which dominate the Brú na Bóinne WHS:

- The escarpment, banks and hills on the south of the river;
- The river itself;
- The present floodplain of the river;
- The glacial floodplain (from when the river was a glacial meltwater channel); and
- The moraines which stretch from Knowth on the west to Dowth on the east and to the River Mattock on the north.





Fig. 7: Swans at Newgrange with barrow in middle ground

## 2.6 NATURAL HERITAGE

Brú na Bóinne contains an important section of the River Boyne, which is both an SAC and an SPA (see Appendix 5). The SAC was designated in 2003 (Site Code 002299) in recognition of the presence of salmon, otter and lamprey, species listed in Annex II of the Habitats Directive (1992). Moreover, the SAC was selected for the presence of alkaline fen and alluvial woodlands, both habitats listed in Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. (The alluvial woodlands are located on the Boyne River Islands downstream of the Obelisk Bridge.) Other areas of special conservation merit within the Brú na Bóinne area are Crewbane Marsh, Rosnaree Riverbank and Dowth Wetlands.

The SPA was designated in 2011 in recognition of the River Boyne as one of the important rivers in the country for the kingfisher. It has recently been recognised that petrifying springs (also Annex I habitats) occur frequently along the southern side of the river. These are complex and specialised habitats where 'tufa' (calcium carbonate) is deposited by the emerging lime-rich ground water. It is typically dominated by bryophytes and in particular by the beautiful curled hook moss (*Palustriella commutate*). A good example can be found beside the canal upstream from Oldbridge.

## 2.7 GENERAL WILDLIFE

### 2.7.1 Birds

The annual Irish Wetland Birds Survey (Birdwatch Ireland) lists 21 different wetland bird species for the River Boyne at Newgrange. Several species occur in the general area, including cormorant, grey heron, mallard, snipe, moorhen, black-headed gull, great black-backed gull and herring gull (Delany 1996; 1997). Other notable bird species found in the area include whooper swan, common buzzard and kingfisher for which the river has been designated an SPA (Fig. 7).

### 2.7.2 Mammals

Otters have been identified within the Boyne River Islands site together with several other mammals including red deer, badger, stoat, pine marten, mountain hare, brown long-eared bat and the common pipistrelle bats.

### 2.7.3 Amphibians

The common frog and the smooth newt have been identified in the Oldbridge area.

### 2.7.4 The River Boyne

The Boyne rises in Newbury Pond near Carbury, County Kildare, flowing north-eastwards through Offaly, Meath and Louth before entering the sea 120km later at Mornington. The Boyne has many major salmon spawning tributaries. Most salmon angling takes place in the



Fig. 8: River Boyne winter flooding in vicinity of Visitor Centre

main channel, but there is also some localised salmon angling in the two deepest, largest tributaries: the Kells Blackwater, which flows south-eastwards from Lough Ramor in Virginia, County Cavan, through Kells, joining the Boyne at Navan, and the River Deel, which flows south-eastwards from Delvin to join the Boyne upstream of the well-known salmon area at Inchamore Bridge (Fig. 8).

### 2.7.5 Salmon Fishing on the River

The River Boyne boasts some excellent salmon fishing, particularly at the top of the tidal section and further upstream at Donore, Slane, Navan, Trim, with Longwood marking the top of the regular salmon angling areas. It was traditionally famed as a spring salmon river, but also has a good grilse run from August onwards. Salmon well into double-figure weights are commonplace, whilst the grilse tend to weigh in at the upper end of the weight range for this age class. There is also excellent brown trout fishing both in the main channel and in several of the tributaries, with good sea trout fishing in the tidal waters. The

lakes and canals associated with the system provide excellent coarse and pike fishing.

With the exception of the outer reaches of the estuary and with very few exceptions further upstream, fishing rights for the entire Boyne main channel are overseen by angling clubs. The River Boyne is currently designated Catch and Release for salmon angling. There is no commercial fishing allowed on the river.

## 2.8 AGRICULTURE

Brú na Bóinne lies in a premier farming area with some of the most fertile soils in Ireland, providing a strong economic base for the local rural community. There has been a direct continuity of agriculture in the area since the megalithic tombs were built by early farming communities. Many of the modern smaller holdings are derived from Land Commission subdivisions<sup>1</sup> given to migrant families from Mayo in the late 1930s and 1940s. These smaller holdings have proven to be non-sustainable in today's

<sup>1</sup> The Irish Land Commission was set up to transfer freehold of land from landlord to tenant, in some cases disadvantaged tenants were moved onto land in other counties.



Fig. 9: Passage tombs in Brú na Bóinne area

farming market and many are leased and used for dry stock. The larger farms practise intensive dairying, dry stock and tillage.

There has been considerable restructuring of farms, with investment in both land improvement and buildings. Between 1950 and 1990 an estimated 12.5% of the land within Brú na Bóinne was reclaimed with grant aid.

## 2.9 ARCHAEOLOGY

Brú na Bóinne's archaeological remains are comprehensively identified in both the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) of County Meath (1997) and that of County Louth (1991). The Archaeological Inventory of County Meath (1987) and the Archaeological Survey of County Louth (1991) provide a list of archaeological monuments and sites in the area along with corresponding maps. The inclusion of archaeological monuments and sites on the RMP, established under the National Monuments Acts 1930–2004, forms the basis for their legal protection.

There are 247 records of monuments located within the WHS and its Buffer Zones, 154 in the Core Area and 93 in the Buffer Zone (see Appendix 4; see also [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)).

### 2.9.1 Archaeological Summary

The Brú na Bóinne WHS is dominated by the three great passage tombs of Knowth, Newgrange and Dowth. The site has been an important ritual, social and economic centre for thousands of years (Fig. 9).

The Knowth group, with features dating from the



Fig. 10: Passage at Newgrange during winter Solstice

Neolithic period through to the Anglo-Norman period and later, has 30 monuments listed on the official inventory. These include passage tombs adorned with megalithic art. The Newgrange group is mainly prehistoric, with a cursus, passage tombs and henges. The Dowth group is similar to that at Newgrange but there is evidence of medieval settlement including a church and a castle. The WHS includes the largest assemblage of megalithic art in Europe.

Internationally one of the better known features of Brú na Bóinne is the mid-winter solstice phenomenon, when the rising sun breaks the horizon of Red Mountain on the southern bank of the Boyne and shines directly through the roof box feature above the entrance to the Newgrange passage tomb illuminating the chamber at the end of the passage. This is a result of the deliberate alignment of the tomb on the mid-winter solstice (Fig. 10). The annual nature of this event helps to keep Brú na Bóinne in the public eye and sustains the sense of wonderment around, and public engagement with, the monuments in the WHS.

While the prominence of the Boyne in the archaeological and historical record can be largely attributed to the



**Fig. 11:** Aerial view looking north towards Newgrange with embanked enclosures (hengés), ritual ponds, barrows and ring-ditches in foreground



**Fig. 12:** Newgrange, April 1950

important prehistoric complex of monuments at Brú na Bóinne, it is because of the river itself and especially that part of the river which virtually encircles all of the key archaeological sites that the location was given such high importance in prehistoric times. The river also has the potential to contain significant archaeological deposits and artefactual remains as it was a major focal point throughout all periods, being used in a variety of different ways including religious veneration, ritual deposition of artefacts, possible deposition of cremated human remains, travel and transport of goods, fishing and general exploitation of the resources of the river (Fig. 11).

### 2.9.2 Archaeological Investigations

There is a long history of research on the megalithic monuments in Brú na Bóinne going back to the 17th century. Modern archaeological investigations and other research have been instigated for a variety of reasons ranging from targeted research to improving visitor access, interpretation and presentation, and to facilitate conservation work. The modern archaeological investigation of megalithic monuments in Brú na Bóinne commenced in 1960 when the small passage tomb at Townleyhall was excavated (Eogan 1963). Shortly afterwards, the lengthy excavation campaigns at Newgrange and Knowth commenced, under the direction of Professor Michael J. O’Kelly and Professor George Eogan respectively (Fig. 12). The excavations at Newgrange had a research element, although they were initiated to improve visitor access and presentation (O’Kelly 1979, 1982, and 1994), while at Knowth the excavations began as a research project and later became concerned with the presentation of the monument (Eogan 1974, 1977, 1984 and 1986; Eogan and Roche 1994 and 1997). At Newgrange the site produced evidence for settlement and ritual throughout the prehistoric period, while at Knowth the site produced material ranging from the Neolithic to the 17th century AD. The results of both continue to inform our understanding of the societies which built these great tombs and underline the continuity of usage of the sites through to modern times.

Excavations carried out by David Sweetman (NMS) in the 1970s and 1980s examined several henge-type monuments at Monknewtown (Sweetman 1976) and Newgrange (Sweetman 1985 and 1987) and, in the 1980s, a small-scale excavation was carried out at the back of the mound at Newgrange (Fig. 13) by Ann Lynch



**Fig. 13:** Excavation of kerbstones and sockets to the rear of the Newgrange tumulus

(NMS) in order to facilitate stabilisation works at the cairn (Lynch 2015). An earthwork complex at Knowth, downslope from the main passage tomb, was investigated between 2002 and 2004. This has been interpreted as an early medieval ‘secular’ cemetery (Stout and Stout 2008). Since the 1990s extensive excavations have been carried out in the hinterland of Brú na Bóinne, largely as a result of the major infrastructural schemes which were initiated at that time. The results of these investigations are contributing to our understanding of the wider context of the Brú na Bóinne monuments.

### 2.9.3 Recent Archaeological Research

The excavation campaigns begun at Newgrange and Knowth in the 1960s were extraordinary in their extent and duration. More recently, research undertaken in Brú na Bóinne has been largely non-invasive, using fieldwalking, remote sensing techniques and satellite coverage in an effort to create a broader focus in order to examine the context of sites and to interpret the complexity of the Brú na Bóinne area.

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Recent decades have also seen increased awareness of the wider astronomical significance of monuments within the WHS. Investigations to date have demonstrated a pivotal relationship between the entrance stone at Newgrange and the positioning of the stones of the Great Circle (Prendergast 1991a; 1991b), with the standing stones throwing shadows on the entrance stone during such key times in the year as the winter and summer solstices and the midpoints between (Fig. 14). An archaeoastronomical investigation of the passage orientations at Knowth Tomb 1 has also been completed (Prendergast 1991b). Other research in the WHS has reflected the growing interest in ploughzone archaeology and in mapping the extent of sub-surface remains (e.g. Brady 1996, 2002, 2007a, 2007b; Cooney *et al.* 2001).

The development and refinement of additional remote sensing techniques such as magnetometry and electrical resistivity from the 1990s onwards has brought greater clarity to the quantification of the archaeological resource at Brú na Bóinne, although geophysical survey has yet to be systematically applied over the entire WHS. Targeted

geophysical survey has taken place in the area of the possible cursus east of Newgrange (Fig. 15) and at a rectilinear enclosure close to Rossnaree ford (Fenwick *et al.* 2009), as well as in the context of site management works at the Brú na Bóinne and Battle of the Boyne visitor centres and, more recently, at Dowth. The geophysical properties of the locations of lithic scatters identified through a recent large-scale fieldwalking programme are also currently being investigated. In 2007, one of the newer remote sensing technologies, LiDAR survey, was applied to the WHS landscape and the resulting bank of spatial data is already being used to map newly discovered sites and to build up models of landscape change (see Fig.44).

Refinement of absolute dating techniques and the appearance of other techniques such as isotopic analysis have given new value to the material conserved in the older excavation archives. The dedicated publication programme of the Royal Irish Academy has ensured that the results of four decades of excavation at Knowth have steadily emerged.



Fig. 14: Harvest moonrise over the great stone circle, Newgrange



**Fig. 15:** Aerial view looking east along the Newgrange ridge with cursus in the background

The most recent Royal Irish Academy monographs, volumes 3, 4 and 5, deal with the extensive early medieval faunal assemblage, the historic hinterland of Knowth and the archaeology of Knowth in the first and second millennia AD respectively (McCormick and Murray 2007; Byrne *et al.* 2008; Eogan 2012).

Archaeological excavation necessitated by development, while not tied into any specific research programme, is also furthering an understanding of the WHS. Important evidence for Bronze Age funerary activity has been uncovered along the route of the Oldbridge–Sheephouse Bypass and in nearby Stalleen ahead of the construction of a private dwelling. In 2008, extensive medieval remains including a stone gatehouse were also revealed in Stalleen. Immediately to the east of the WHS, the considerable body of data recovered from excavations along the M1 Drogheda Bypass, though largely unpublished, is already beginning to shed new light on past communities of the Brú na Bóinne area (e.g. Smyth 2007; 2014).

Over the centuries, the discovery of thousands of artefacts from all periods including several logboats from various locations along the river, mainly as a result of dredging and reclamation works, has highlighted the archaeological significance of the river, the important role it has played over time and the archaeological potential it still retains. Future studies of Brú na Bóinne should take into consideration the underwater archaeological potential of the river and put in place appropriate strategies for a multi-disciplinary approach to assessing this important aspect of its archaeological potential.

## 2.10 BUILT HERITAGE

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) is a nationwide survey of the built environment post-1700 identifying buildings and structures of significance (Fig. 16). An interim survey of the architectural heritage of County Meath was published in 2002 by the NIAH. The NIAH also published its survey of the architectural heritage of County Louth in 2008. The survey of County Meath includes a range of buildings within the WHS area such as



**Fig. 16:** Dowth Hall built in the late eighteenth-century



**Fig. 17:** The eighteenth-century grain mill at Slane

Dowth Hall, Boyne Valley Cottage, Rossnaree Mill, and two World War II concrete pillboxes which are included in the list of Protected Structures for Meath (Appendix 6). The survey of County Louth includes buildings and structures within, immediately adjacent to, and visible from, the WHS such as the Obelisk Bridge over the River Boyne and the nationally important Townley Hall.

On completion, many of the structures recorded in the NIAH interim surveys of counties Meath and Louth were the subject of a Recommendation by the then Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government for inclusion in the relevant planning authority's Record of

Protected Structures (RPS). The RPS is a list of all Protected Structures in a county and includes structures of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, social, scientific or technical importance (Fig. 17).

Protected Structures within the WHS are listed in the current Meath County Development Plan (2013–2019) and Louth County Development Plan (2009–2015) in accordance with the provisions of Section 51 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The area contains 33 Protected Structures which are exemplars of the built heritage of the area (28 in Meath and five in Louth). These are set out in Appendix 6.





Fig. 18: The eighteenth-century Boyne Navigation canal



Fig. 19: Location of central action in Battle of the Boyne in eastern Buffer Zone of WHS

### 2.11 THE INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE SURVEY OF COUNTY MEATH

An Industrial Heritage Survey of County Meath (2010) lists 68 entries within the WHS (Fig. 18). Many of these entries relate to the various components which together make up the Boyne Navigation (sections of canal, weirs, bridges, locks, lock-keeper cottages, mooring posts etc.) (see Appendix 7).

### 2.12 BATTLE OF THE BOYNE 1690

A number of features pertinent to the 1690 Battle of the Boyne (James II and William of Orange) are already listed on the RMP. These include the principal locations/sites where hostilities took place and where artefacts have been recovered in the past. Also included are weirs and fords in the river that may have played a role during the course of the battle (Fig. 19).

Research indicates that the battle took place within the designated WHS and close to its periphery. The principal engagements of the battle took place at several places: Tullyallen and Oldbridge; Roughgrange and Stalleen; the area around Donore and, finally, the area around the bridge at Duleek. The State owns a property at Oldbridge which was at the heart of this battle and where a visitor centre was opened in 2008. This land lies within the Buffer Zone at the eastern end of the site and lies directly across the river from Proudfootstown which is in the WHS. The Oldbridge Estate is an Architectural Conservation Area (see Appendix 12).

### 2.13 THE BOYNE NAVIGATION

Part of the Boyne Navigation, the earliest navigation scheme in Ireland (1748–1790), lies within Brú na Bóinne. The River Boyne is the most important river crossing on the road from Ulster to Dublin. It is a natural defensive line as well as being an inland communication route. The

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Boyne was canalised between 1748 and 1790 in order to encourage trade with the Dublin market and to transport corn to the port at Drogheda from inland markets.

A project to open navigation from Oldbridge to Navan was begun in the mid-18th century by the Boyne Navigation Company. It was divided into two parts, the upper navigation from Slane to Navan and the lower portion from Drogheda to Slane. The navigation channel was the River Boyne itself and a series of canals alongside the river where there are bridges and lock gates. Eight locks were built between Drogheda and Slane, six of which lie within Brú na Bóinne, i.e. Oldbridge, Stalleen (2), Roughgrange (2) and Newgrange.

The aim of the Boyne Navigation was to use horse-drawn vessels to transport produce from the large grain and flour mills at Navan to the port of Drogheda and to carry imported coal from Drogheda in the opposite direction. The original plan to link the navigation from Navan to the Royal Canal at Trim was not achieved. There are currently restoration works taking place on the Boyne Navigation that runs through the WHS. It is an action of this Plan to encourage this while ensuring that the development has no negative impact on either the built or natural heritage.

### 2.14 PROTECTED VIEWS

There are eighteen protected views which include the WHS in the Meath County Development Plan (see Appendix 8) and some work on landscape characterisation has taken place (Davis *et. al.* 2010).

## Chapter 3 Significance of Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site

### 3.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The scale of passage tomb construction within Brú na Bóinne, the important concentration of megalithic art (Fig. 20), as well as the range of sites and the long and continuous duration of activity, were cited as reasons for the site's inscription as a WHS. Significantly, the OUV of Brú na Bóinne is linked not only with the Neolithic monuments, but includes all monuments in the WHS, which testify to the longevity of settlement.

### 3.2 RETROSPECTIVE STATEMENT OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

Many properties inscribed on the World Heritage List do not have an agreed Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV). This is an essential tool that became a mandatory requirement for the first time following the amendment of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* in 2005.

SOUVs are made up of several elements; a brief description, Statement of Significance, Statement of Authenticity, Statement of Integrity and a section describing how the WHS is protected and managed. These Statements need to be approved by the World Heritage Committee as a way of articulating the OUV that was identified at the time of inscription. The full text of the retrospective SOUV for the Brú na Bóinne World Heritage property in Ireland, as adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 2013), is attached as Appendix 9.

### 3.3 INTEGRITY AND AUTHENTICITY

#### 3.3.1 Integrity

The property includes all elements necessary to express its OUV. The boundaries are adequate and the Buffer Zone encompasses the wider landscape setting of the monuments and gives them a context which embraces the



Fig. 20: Carving on passage orthostat at Newgrange

WHS. The landscape is vulnerable to incremental change of a man-made nature but also has permanent physical threats to deal with such as visitor footfall and the annual flooding of the Boyne which must be monitored on a yearly basis.

#### 3.3.2 Authenticity

The monuments in the WHS have a high level of authenticity. Major excavations have been carried out at Newgrange and Knowth, the results of which have either been fully published or are currently in preparation. Numerous small excavations and surveys have also been carried out in the general area. The main conservation works undertaken within the site have concentrated on the two main passage tombs at Newgrange and Knowth. All conservation and restoration work has been carried out by skilled professional staff.



**Fig. 21:** Newgrange roof box through which the rising sun shines during the winter solstice

At Newgrange, extensive conservation work was carried out in the passage and entrance areas in the 1960s and 70s. Subsequent work took place at the rear of the site where orthostats were excavated and subsequently conserved (Fig. 21).

At Knowth, structures from all periods have been conserved. In some passage tombs outer support walls have been built for the burial chambers, involving the use of modern materials such as cement and plastic. Where such new additions are visible they are clearly distinguished in appearance from original materials.

At Dowth, large quantities of stone were quarried for road making in the 19th century and an engineer dug into the mound looking for a passage and chamber similar to the Newgrange one. He opened a large cutting extending from the west side of the mound towards its centre which, when abandoned, was never properly backfilled. Few records of this investigation survive but it is clear that no new chamber was discovered although the chamber and passage of the North Tomb were investigated. Apart from a small excavation outside of the entrance, no modern excavations have occurred at the site.

### 3.4 JUSTIFICATION OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

Ireland ratified the World Heritage Convention on 16 September 1991, nominating the 'Archaeological



**Fig. 22:** Carving on a passage orthostat in the western tomb at Knowth

Ensemble of the Bend of the Boyne' for inscription on the World Heritage List a year later. Following an ICOMOS evaluation, the property was inscribed by the World Heritage Committee in December 1993.

The 'Archaeological Ensemble of the Bend of the Boyne' was judged to be of Outstanding Universal Value on the basis of meeting three of the six criteria for the assessment of OUV for cultural heritage World Heritage properties (Fig. 22):

- [i] represents a masterpiece of human creative genius*
- [iii] bears a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared*
- [iv] is an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history.*



**Fig. 23:** Newgrange, triple spiral on chamber orthostat

The ICOMOS advisory body evaluation (1992) concluded that:

*“The archaeological area in the Bend of the Boyne is one of the largest and most important prehistoric and later complexes in Europe, and also one of the least disturbed. Its importance extends beyond Ireland, since it represents the largest assemblage of megalithic art in Europe. It is also outstanding because of the continuity that it demonstrates over two long historical periods, from the 4th to early 2nd millennia BC and from the Early Iron Age to the High Middle Ages. It is important for the information that it provides about social, economy, and, above all, religious organization and continuity. Although megalithic monuments are distributed widely in the “Atlantic Zone” of western Europe, from Malta to Scandinavia, there is no complex that compares in density of monuments and high artistic quality with the Brú na Bóinne group.”*

### 3.5 ATTRIBUTES TO THE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The general approach to assessing the significance of Brú na Bóinne is adapted from the principles set out by James Semple Kerr (2013). It relies on an understanding of the physical attributes, uses, relationships and associations of the place up to and including the present day which make a place of value to us and our society.

As attested by its inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List, the complex at Brú na Bóinne is of exceptional significance for the following reasons:

- The presence and scale of a series of megalithic tombs dating from the Neolithic period within the Bend of the Boyne, the important concentration of megalithic art and the landscape setting of this within the Bend of the Boyne. The importance of this complex is in the context of the wider European megalithic phenomenon (Fig. 23).
- The views from most locations within Brú na Bóinne, in particular at the key monuments, are broad ones that take in many other key cultural and natural features, e.g. the River Boyne and the surrounding hills, which enable the visitor to share a sense of awe. This sense of awe undoubtedly played a role in establishing order among the ancient societies that lived in these landscapes.
- Brú na Bóinne provides an outstanding example of a monumental landscape associated with the adaptation of agriculture.
- The Neolithic passage tomb was constructed so that the rays of the rising sun would shine into the inner sanctum of the tomb at the winter solstice, demonstrating a high level of human knowledge, ingenuity and creativity.
- The longevity of settlement in this location is of particular significance. From early prehistory, through to the early medieval and medieval periods, and including more recent times, the landscape of the WHS contains a large concentration of settlement and ritual sites and vernacular heritage. These remains contain considerable information about life, ritual, economy, environment and settlement, and more discoveries will be made through future research and investigation (Fig. 24).
- The site of the Battle of the Boyne (1690) has relevance and meaning beyond the boundaries of the Irish State and was a battlefield of European significance during the wars of grand alliance against the French Sun King. In the 20th century during World War II, the River Boyne was equipped with a series of military structures (pillboxes and other structures) to enable it to operate as a defensive line of the Irish Free State. These structures still exist within the Buffer Zone and the WHS.



Fig. 24: Newgrange from the north-east with folly in the foreground

- The navigable River Boyne is a prime example of 18th-century river navigation. Its construction commenced in 1748 and it consists of a series of bypass canals, locks, bridges and other associated structures such as mill complexes and quarries with their attendant workers' dwellings. The presence of these underlines the role of the river as a primary route of international trade and influence for millennia since the earliest settlements took place along its banks.

### 3.6 NATURAL VALUE

The presence of ecological designations in the WHS adds to the significance of the complex (Fig. 25). The WHS encompasses several Natural Heritage Areas—Crewbane Marsh, Rossnaree Riverbank, Dowth Wetlands and the Boyne River Islands. The latter is one of the few examples in the State of alluvial wet woodland—a priority habitat under the EU Habitats Directive. It is also part of a much larger SAC and also an SPA incorporating the majority of the Boyne and Blackwater river valleys. The Boyne itself has been designated a salmonid river under the EU Freshwater Fish Directive.

### 3.7 SOCIO-ECONOMIC VALUE

The Brú na Bóinne WHS plays an important part in the wider local economy. The site has considerable social value for residents and tourists, as attested by visitor numbers in excess of 250,000 per year, as a resource of learning, enjoyment and tourism and as a living landscape requiring careful management and partnership. However, a more detailed study is required to fully identify the complete socio-economic impact of the WHS designation on the area. A preliminary study on the position of the WHS in relation to other areas of rural Meath is being carried out and its findings will inform any required amendments to the Plan. While protecting the OUV of the site, the Plan must emphasise sustainable development and land use, consistent with the aims of the Plan (Managing Cultural World Heritage 2013, 20–22).

### 3.8 OTHER VALUES AT BRÚ NA BÓINNE

The values identified for the Brú na Bóinne WHS cover a wider expanse than those acknowledged in the World Heritage inscription, which tended to celebrate the mon-



Fig. 25: Red deer on Dowth demesne

umental passage tombs, the megalithic art and the duration of settlement. Ecological significance (various designations) as well as social values, as represented by the scale of visitor interest, are clearly worth expanding upon in any statement of values. The important landscape setting of the monuments is also a key issue that needs to be acknowledged and valued.

Ireland has obligations under UNESCO's World Heritage Convention in relation to the effective management of the

WHS which requires that every site has an appropriate management structure in place. This Management Plan is not a statutory document. However, during its drafting all relevant statutory and non-statutory frameworks and guidelines were taken into consideration. The previous plan was reviewed (see appendix 11) and two periods of consultation were engaged in with the relevant local and national bodies and with stakeholders with and around the WHS.







# Part 2

## CHAPTER 4 Management and Policy Framework

### 4.1 STATUTORY PROTECTIONS

The protection and conservation of Brú na Bóinne is controlled by a range of international charters and conventions, by national legislation, local planning mechanisms and statutory and non-statutory guidance. These legislative provisions include, amongst others, the National Monuments Act 1930–2004 (the Principal Act of 1930 and subsequent amending Acts are construed as one Act), the Wildlife Acts, 1976 and 2000, the Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2014, various EU Directives and international instruments.

### 4.2 THE NATIONAL MONUMENTS ACT 1930–2004

The National Monuments Act provides the statutory framework for the protection of Ireland's archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage. The Act provides for:

- The protection of monuments, including a higher level of protection for National Monuments;
- The regulation of the conduct of archaeological excavations and the use of devices such as metal detectors;
- The regulation of the ownership, possession, alteration and export of archaeological objects;
- The protection of the underwater archaeological heritage, including historic wrecks and other archaeological objects which have been submerged;
- Penalties for damage and destruction of protected monuments, wrecks and archaeological objects;
- Allowing the State to protect and preserve National Monuments in its care through conservation works, management, by-laws and the provision of public access.

The three major sites (Newgrange, Knowth and Dowth) in Brú na Bóinne are National Monuments (as defined in the National Monuments Act) in State ownership and are afforded the highest level of statutory protection avail-

able, requiring the prior written consent of the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht for any proposed works at, or in proximity to them. Any proposed works at Recorded Monuments, which make up the majority of those located within the WHS and the Buffer Zone, must be notified to the Minister at least two months in advance (see Appendix 4).

### 4.3 WILDLIFE ACTS 1976 AND 2000

The Wildlife Acts allow for the designation of Natural Heritage Areas, Nature Reserves (State-owned) and refuges for fauna, as well as for the making of Flora Protection Orders. The Acts provide a legal basis for the designation of the Natural Heritage Areas in the vicinity of Brú na Bóinne, i.e. Crewbane Marsh, Rossnaree Riverbank, Dowth Wetlands and Boyne River Islands, as well as the Boyne Coast and Estuary. Designation would provide a level of protection comparable to that provided for SACs in the 1997 EU Habitats Regulations.

### 4.4 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTS 2000–2014

The Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) consolidated the law on planning and development by repealing and re-enacting, with amendments, the earlier Planning Acts 1963–1999. Under the associated Planning Regulations, the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs is a prescribed body to which applications for planning permission, which may have the potential to affect the designated archaeological, architectural or natural heritage, should be referred for comment. Such applications are assessed by the DAHRRGA to determine the impact, if any, that the proposed development might have on the archaeological, architectural and natural heritage, and appropriate recommendations may be made to the relevant planning authority. Following representations from local groups it has been decided to offer pre-planning advice to applicants within the WHS and this

will include planning advice both from the Local Authority and from the archaeologists and architects of the DAHRRGA. Local planning is one of the most contentious issues in the WHS and Buffer Zone, and many respondents wanted the system to be more flexible and to include one-off housing. This is contrary to the Development Plans of both counties Meath and Louth. The fact is that DAHRRGA is a statutory consultee in relation to monuments whether in a WHS or not and works to protect all registered monuments in the country. It also has responsibilities through this Plan in relation to the OUV of the site and its management (Fig. 26).

#### 4.4.1 County Development Plans

The County Development Plan is the statutory framework for describing the current strategic planning policies for a county. The Plan sets out objectives for the protection, conservation and enhancement of both built and natural heritage in a county. Whilst the various archaeological monuments and wildlife sites and features are protected under separate legislation, the protection of the overall landscape and interpretation of various structures and features is largely the domain of the Development Plan (Local Government Planning System).

##### **Meath County Development Plan 2013–2019**

[https://meathcountydevelopmentplan.files.wordpress.com/2013/12/meath-development-plan-volume-1-written-statement\\_lowres.pdf](https://meathcountydevelopmentplan.files.wordpress.com/2013/12/meath-development-plan-volume-1-written-statement_lowres.pdf)

Chapter 9 of the Meath County Development Plan outlines Meath County Council's policies and proposals for the protection, conservation and enhancement of the heritage of Meath. A number of policies are outlined in this chapter which specifically detail the Council's commitment to the protection and conservation of the WHS.

##### **Louth County Development Plan 2015–2021**

[http://www.louthcoco.ie/en/Publications/Development-Plans/Louth\\_County\\_Council/Volume-1-Written-Statement.pdf](http://www.louthcoco.ie/en/Publications/Development-Plans/Louth_County_Council/Volume-1-Written-Statement.pdf)

A number of new policies in relation to the WHS and the Buffer Zone are included. These include policies on refurbishment of vernacular architecture, a new development zone 6 specifically relating to Brú na Bóinne and Monasterboice (on the Tentative List) to ensure that its significance, authenticity and integrity are not adversely affected by inappropriate and cumulative change and development. There is a full section on the WHS.



Fig. 26: The entrance to Newgrange, 1954

#### 4.5 HERITAGE PLANS

The Meath and Louth County Heritage Plans were produced in response to a key action contained in the National Heritage Plan 2002. This action required Local Authorities to provide for heritage at a local level through the preparation and adoption of County Heritage Plans. The Heritage Plan is intended to complement the County Development Plan and other statutory plans through the collection of relevant data and by undertaking actions to ensure that heritage policy is effectively implemented.

##### **Meath Heritage Plan**

<http://www.meath.ie/CountyCouncil/Heritage/HeritagePlan/File,5063,en.pdf>

The first County Heritage Plan covered the period 2007–2011. Its timeframe was extended to allow implementation of key actions. The County Heritage Plan is currently being revised by Meath County Council.

##### **Louth Heritage Plan**

Louth's first Heritage Plan covered the period 2007–2011. A new Heritage Plan has been drafted but has not yet been sent for consultation or adopted.



Fig. 27: The Bend of the Boyne below Newgrange

## 4.6 EU HABITATS AND BIRDS DIRECTIVES

In 1992 the EU adopted the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) on the conservation of natural and semi-natural habitats and species of flora and fauna. The Directive, which requires Member States to designate SACs in order to protect particular habitats and species listed in Annexes to the Directive, was transposed into Irish law by the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations in February 1997 (and subsequently by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulation 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011)). The SACs, together with SPAs, designated under the 1979 Birds Directive, form Natura 2000, a network of protected areas or 'European Sites' throughout the EU.

Article 4.1 of the Birds Directive provides that Member States classify the most suitable territories as SPAs. This Article was implemented in Ireland in the first instance by the EC (Conservation of Wild Birds) Regulations 1985 (S.I. No. 291 of 1985). Like the SACs, the enforcement provi-

sions for SPAs are contained within the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulation 2011 (Fig. 27).

In order to protect and maintain the nature conservation status of the Annex habitats within Natura 2000 sites, certain activities may be restricted within the designated areas. These activities (known as Activities Requiring Consent, formerly called Notifiable Activities) have been identified as having the potential to destroy or significantly alter, damage or interfere with the ecology of a site. The list of such activities varies depending on the habitats and species present.

Finally, the Boyne River has been designated a salmonid river under the EU Freshwater Fish Directive (78/659/EC), given effect in Irish law by S.I. No. 293 of 1988.

This plan was examined both in terms of Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment (see appendices 13 and 14).

## 4.7 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS, GUIDANCE AND CHARTERS

### 4.7.1 UNESCO World Heritage Convention

The World Heritage Convention was adopted by the UNESCO General Conference in 1972. Currently, 190 countries (known as States Parties) have ratified the Convention, including Ireland in 1991. The Convention established the World Heritage List as a means of identifying that some places, either natural or cultural, are of such significance as to be the responsibility of the international community as a whole. By signing up to the Convention, States Parties pledge to conserve not only the WHS in their territory but also to avoid deliberate measures that could damage WHS in other countries. They also must endeavour by appropriate means, particularly by educational and information programmes to strengthen appreciation and respect by their peoples of the cultural and natural heritage.

### 4.7.2 International Conventions

Four international conventions signed by Ireland are pertinent. The Granada Convention (1985) and the Valletta Convention (1991) confirmed the State's desire to protect its architectural and archaeological heritage, firstly by their

identification through the establishment of architectural and archaeological inventories and secondly through the provision of statutory procedures for their designation for protection. The Ramsar Convention (ratified by Ireland in 1984) provides for the designation of important wetlands for protection. The Bern Convention (1979) provides for the conservation of wild flora and fauna in their natural habitats, especially those species and habitats whose conservation requires the co-operation of several States, and promotes such co-operation.

#### **4.7.3 Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (2013)**

Ireland ratified the UNESCO World Heritage Convention (WHC) in 1991. The WHC establishes a list of properties 'deemed to be of Outstanding Universal Value' and legally obliges States Parties to protect and manage them to the highest international standards. The Operational Guidelines for the WHC (July 2013) require adherence to criteria of authenticity, protection under national legislation, adequate planning control and management mechanisms, conservation, accessibility to the public and suitable administrative and resourcing arrangements. It also focuses on the need for the active participation of communities and other stakeholders.

## CHAPTER 5 Current Management Systems

### 5.1 OWNERSHIP STRUCTURE

The pattern of ownership of the WHS is varied. A significant portion of the WHS surrounding Knowth, Newgrange and Dowth is owned by the State but the greater part of the WHS is in private ownership; most of the Buffer Zone is also in private ownership. The State owns land at Newgrange, Knowth and Dowth, as well as some other individual monuments, and is also the owner of the Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre. The State also owns the house and grounds at Oldbridge Estate, the centre-piece of the Battle of the Boyne site.

An Taisce – the National Trust for Ireland (an environmental NGO holding charitable status dedicated to the protection of Ireland’s built and natural heritage) owns the River Boyne Navigation and Towpath, a series of bypassing

canals and pathways along the Boyne. Some of these tow-paths have been opened as recreational walking routes. Navigation restoration efforts by the Inland Waterways Association of Ireland are focused on the section upriver from Oldbridge which will allow the passage of boats as far as Newgrange.

The remainder of the lands within the WHS are in private ownership. A fuller understanding of ownership would benefit the site’s management and allow for more effective consultation with landowners. An action of this Plan will be to establish and maintain an ownership map for the WHS, with the aim of extending it to the Buffer Zone. A new owner has recently purchased land at Dowth and with DAHRRGA support is preparing a Conservation Plan for the estate.



Fig. 28: Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre



**Fig. 29:** A badger taking refuge in the chamber at Newgrange (Photo: Clare Tuffy)

Finally, a number of rated occupiers are recorded as holding fishing rights on the river and many lease these rights to the local angling clubs.

## 5.2 OVERVIEW OF RESPONSIBILITY—KEY PARTNERS

### 5.2.1 State Party

In this instance the State Party is the Irish Government. The DAHRRGA is the State's focal point for the implementation of the WHC in Ireland. The DAHRRGA is responsible for the State's overall policy on all matters related to World Heritage. The NMS within the DAHRRGA is the contact point with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. The NMS provides archaeological input to the conservation and presentation of the site and operates a Service Level Agreement with the OPW, which has responsibility for day-to-day management including conservation and the provision of visitor facilities (Fig. 28). The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) of the DAHRRGA is responsible for the protection and conservation of the natural habitats and landscape elements of our WHSs. Meath and Louth County Councils have planning responsibilities with respect to the WHS Core Area and Buffer Zones.

### 5.2.2 Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

The DAHRRGA oversees the conservation, preservation, protection and presentation of Ireland's heritage and cultural assets. It is responsible for the State's overall policy on WHSs. Within the DAHRRGA there are several different specialist sections whose responsibility encompasses the WHS at Brú na Bóinne:



**Fig. 30:** Eighteenth-century Johnson's Mill at Rosnaree

### **National Monuments Service**

The formulation and implementation of the Department's policy relating to the protection of Ireland's archaeological heritage is the responsibility of the NMS. The NMS has responsibility for archaeological issues arising at National Monuments in State care and also for carrying out surveys of known and suspected sites. The NMS also compiles inventories of sites and monuments. It implements the legislation in relation to the protection of monuments and sites, including historic wrecks and underwater archaeological sites and it regulates archaeological excavations, the use of detection devices for archaeological purposes and diving activities on historic wrecks and underwater archaeological sites. It provides advice to planning authorities on development proposals (development plans, heritage plans and individual planning applications) that may have implications for the archaeological heritage. It also provides advice to individuals and local groups on archaeological issues, and all records of sites and monuments are available on its website [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie).

### **National Parks and Wildlife Service**

The NPWS section manages the Irish State's nature conservation responsibilities under national and European law (Fig. 29). A particular responsibility of the NPWS is the designation and protection of SACs, SPAs and Natural Heritage Areas. ([www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie))

### **Built Heritage and Architectural Policy**

The Built Heritage and Architectural Policy section is responsible for the Department's policy relating to the nation's architectural heritage (Fig. 30), achieving this

through legislation, the recording of that heritage (through the NIAH), the provision of capital funding for the built heritage, and the provision of professional guidance ([www.buildingsofireland.ie](http://www.buildingsofireland.ie)).

### 5.2.3 Office of Public Works

The OPW is a State Agency of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. The OPW has responsibility for the day-to-day management and conservation of all State properties. Its National Monuments Service and National Historic Properties Service manage all monuments in State ownership including Brú na Bóinne and the Battle of the Boyne centre at Oldbridge Estate. The OPW also possesses the primary role in facilitating presentation and public access. Within the OPW there are two specific sections with responsibility for Brú na Bóinne.

#### **Heritage Services (National Monuments)**

The Heritage Services (National Monuments) of the OPW has responsibility for the day-to-day operation of all National Monuments in State care (i.e. in State ownership and guardianship). The bulk of its resources is dedicated to conservation activities and the delivery of a range of

relevant projects at these sites through the directly employed labour force. It also provides a guide service to National Monuments (Fig. 31).

#### **Heritage Services (National Historic Properties)**

The National Historic Properties section of the OPW is responsible for the care, maintenance, management and presentation of significant properties and historic parks, gardens and designed landscapes in State care. The principal objective is to protect, conserve, maintain and present national historic properties and also encourage appropriate public access, through informal guided or organised events. It is responsible for Oldbridge House where the Battle of the Boyne is interpreted; this estate is in the Buffer Zone to the east of the WHS.

### 5.2.4 Local Government – Meath and Louth County Councils

Meath and Louth County Councils have responsibility under the statutory planning system for the making of development plans and for the operation and implementation of the development management process for each of their respective counties and within the WHS area and



Fig. 31: Interpretive displays in the Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre





**Fig. 32:** Newgrange from the south

the Buffer Zone. There is an appeals process through An Bord Pleanála, an independent national body that is responsible for the determination of planning appeals and certain other matters.

#### **Meath County Council**

Meath County Council is the planning authority responsible for the area of the WHS that lies within the county of Meath, which includes the entire Core Area, Southern Buffer Zone and most of the Northern Buffer Zone of Brú na Bóinne.

#### **Louth County Council**

Louth County Council is the planning authority responsible for the area of the WHS that lies within the county of Louth (a small part of the Northern Buffer Zone of Brú na Bóinne).

### **5.2.5 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation**

UNESCO is a specialised agency of the United Nations which is responsible for the designation of sites nominated by State Parties for World Heritage status. One of the main aims of UNESCO is to encourage the identification, pro-

tection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world which is considered to be of outstanding value to humanity (Fig. 32). This is embodied in an international treaty called the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, which was adopted by UNESCO in 1972. The World Heritage Committee, the main body with responsibility for the implementation of the Convention, has developed precise criteria for the inscription of properties on the World Heritage List and for the provision of international assistance under the World Heritage Fund. The criteria and procedures are set out in the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* (2013).

## **5.3 OTHER STAKEHOLDERS**

### **5.3.1 Local Communities**

The WHS and its Buffer Zone are part of an established, predominantly rural landscape. Like most communities the WHS has a great variety of groups and organisations working within and close to it, e.g. Boyne Valley Consultative Committee, Irish Farmers Association, youth organisations, sports teams and clubs, service clubs (Lions,

## 42 Brú na Bóinne Management Plan 2017

Rotary, etc.) and businesses. Engagement with these important local groups ensures better relationships between statutory and community interests and greater mutual understanding of the issues involved in successfully managing a WHS in the midst of a vibrant community setting. The community is well informed and acutely aware of the importance of the site's OUV. It is entitled to a level of input into the active management of the site and to be consulted so that it can make an effective contribution to management decisions. A policy of inclusivity is critical to the success of the Management Plan.

### 5.3.2 Private Landowners and Leaseholders

Local landowners and leaseholders within the Brú na Bóinne WHS continue to play a major role in the preservation of monuments on their lands. The owners and occupiers of land within the WHS have a proud history of preserving and maintaining the wealth of archaeological monuments located on their lands, and their stewardship down the centuries has been one of the primary reasons for the preservation of the OUV of the site as a whole.

### 5.3.3 ICOMOS Ireland (International Council on Monuments and Sites)

ICOMOS International was founded in 1965 and is an NGO with members from around the world. ICOMOS Ireland was founded in 1984 and since then it has grown and developed and currently has over 100 members. These are professionals from a range of disciplines drawn from the State heritage services, local government, museums, third level institutions and private practice. ICOMOS Ireland follows, advises and comments on matters relating to World Heritage in Ireland. ICOMOS International advises the World Heritage Committee on built heritage matters in relation to already inscribed sites and has a role in monitoring the management of WHSs and maintaining their OUV.

### 5.3.4 Fáilte Ireland

Fáilte Ireland is the National Tourism Development Authority, responsible for supporting Ireland's tourism industry and sustaining Ireland as a high-quality and competitive tourism destination. Fáilte Ireland works with other State agencies and representative bodies at local and national levels to implement and champion positive and practical strategies that will benefit Irish tourism and the larger economy.

### 5.3.5 An Taisce

An Taisce—the National Trust for Ireland was established in 1948 and is an influential environmental body in Ireland. An Taisce is a prescribed body under the Planning Acts, the only such body which is independent of the State, and Local Authorities are obliged to consult it with regard to development proposals which may have heritage implications. An Taisce seeks to educate, inform and lead public opinion on the environment and to advocate and influence policy at European, national and local levels. An Taisce is currently Ireland's executive representative on the European Environmental Bureau, a Brussels-based NGO that shadows the European Commission on environmental matters. An Taisce is also a significant landowner within the WHS.

### 5.3.6 Academic and Research Community

There is a long history of archaeological and historical research in Brú na Bóinne, going back as far as 1699, when Welsh antiquarian Edward Lhuyd first wrote about the then newly discovered tomb at Newgrange. Research contributes to awareness, appreciation and understanding, all of which are vital ingredients of sustainable management. The *Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site, Research Framework* was at the time (2009) only the third such document to be published globally and its production drew together all previous work and promoted an integrated understanding of the WHS. Since publication there has been a sustained and coordinated approach to the study of Brú na Bóinne.

### 5.3.7 Directed Research

The Directed Archaeological Research Fund has been established by DAHRRGA and is administered through the Royal Irish Academy with a view to producing research which also aids in the management of the archaeological resource. During the lifetime of this Plan it is hoped that much of the research work will also produce useful gazetteers of sites, whether surveyed, excavated or discovered through geophysics within the WHS and the Buffer Zone, which will allow a more detailed management scheme to emerge.

## 5.4 CURRENT PROPERTY MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

As the State Party to the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, overall responsibility for the protection of the



Fig. 33: Display within the Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre



Fig. 34: The passage tomb at Dowth

Brú na Bóinne WHS rests with the DAHRRGA. The Department is responsible to the Oireachtas for the national legislative and policy framework for built and natural heritage. The OPW manages the State-owned lands in the WHS, including the Visitor Centre (Fig. 33).

The two organisations liaise to provide an integrated approach to the management and operation of the site. Coordination between the OPW and the DAHRRGA is subject to a Service Level Agreement.

## 5.5 CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

The management of the cultural heritage at Brú na Bóinne is part of the remit of the OPW. Archaeological input to the conservation and presentation of the site is provided

by the NMS of the DAHRRGA. Archaeological and architectural works on monuments in State care are only carried out with the consent of the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. All other archaeological works on non-National Monuments sites are carried out under licence.

## 5.6 GENERAL MAINTENANCE WORKS

The maintenance work at Newgrange, Knowth and Dowth is carried out by the OPW direct labour force which is based at the Knowth House sub-depot. Maintenance works at the Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre, a contemporary building but also a Protected Structure which is included in the RPS in the Development Plan for County Meath, is carried out by maintenance staff based at the centre.

## 5.7 CONSERVATION WORKS

All conservation works by the OPW are carried out under Ministerial Consent from the DAHRRGA and are undertaken with due regard to the various international charters, conventions and guidance documents that provide a framework for the preservation of historic monuments and WHSs. Legislation in relation to National Monuments and wildlife must be complied with when undertaking conservation work (Fig. 34).

Conservation works are carried out by a direct labour force under the direction of the OPW Senior Architect for the



**Fig. 35:** A guide addressing visitors at Newgrange

Trim region. Archaeological input into the works is carried out either under contract, subject to licence from the DAHRRGA, or directly by Departmental staff. District Works meetings between OPW and DAHRRGA are held every few months to review projects in the district, including those concerning the WHS.

## 5.8 RECENT AND ONGOING WORKS

Some conservation works at Knowth and Newgrange have recently been completed. Ongoing activity will include the long-term monitoring of the works on these sites.

### 5.8.1 Newgrange

In the previous Management Plan it was recommended that an advisory group be set up to look at the option of moving the entrance stone indoors and replacing it with a replica (Fig. 35). Since October 2004 the highly decorated entrance stone has been covered with a waterproof fabric and insulation each evening during the winter months, from October until the end of March. During the extreme weather over the winter of 2010–2011 the site was closed for a number of days and the stone remained covered throughout the day.

### 5.8.2 Knowth

Since the winter of 2005, all the external carved stones including standing stones and kerb stones have been loosely wrapped for the duration of the winter months to protect them from frost damage.

### 5.8.3 Dowth

The site is open and accessible but public access to the south tomb is restricted at present due to concerns regarding safety.

### 5.8.4 Knowth House

Knowth House was re-roofed in 2003 and since then the entire complex of outbuildings has been re-roofed. Consideration will be given to the use of this house for educational purposes.

## 5.9 SURVEY AND RECORDING

A full survey was carried out at the sites of Newgrange and Knowth passage tombs in 2009. The survey is available in Autocad; the two chambers at Knowth have been fully recorded (post-conservation) and the locations of all recorded megalithic art in the passageway have been inte-



**Fig. 36:** Satellite passage tomb at Knowth with the outbuildings of Knowth House in the background

grated into the survey. This information will be part of the soon to be published volumes on the megalithic art and the conservation works in the Knowth publication series.

## 5.10 VISITOR MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

### 5.10.1 Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre and Facilities

Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre is situated on the south side of the River Boyne. The centre contains exhibitions that describe the society that created the Neolithic tombs, their homes, dress, food, tools and weapons. Great emphasis is placed throughout the exhibition on the building of the monuments: why they were built: how they were used; where the building stones were found, and how these were moved to the site. An audio–visual show deals primarily with the solar alignments of the monuments in the Boyne Valley. The extensive exhibition also contains a partial full-scale replica of the chamber at Newgrange as well as a replica of one of the smaller sites at Knowth. The centre provides other facilities such as tourist information, restaurant, picnic area and parking.

The Visitor Centre is the starting point for all visits to Newgrange and Knowth passage tombs. Visitors wishing to access Newgrange and Knowth must join formal tours which leave from the Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre. Visitors are transported from the Visitor Centre to the monuments by shuttle bus. The last tour to the monuments leaves 1 hour and 45 minutes before the centre closes. The last admission to the Visitor Centre is 45 minutes before closing time. Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre and Newgrange are open all year round except for 24–27 December inclusive.



**Fig. 37:** Visitors leaving WHS by footbridge

Knowth is open from Easter until the end of October. These details may change but can be looked up on the OPW website: [www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie).

It is possible to view the mound at Dowth by going directly to the site but there is no public access to the tombs themselves.

### 5.10.2 Access to Brú na Bóinne

Current public access to the WHS at Brú na Bóinne is strictly controlled as the current road infrastructure is not capable of taking significant numbers of private cars or tour buses (Fig. 37). Road signage diverts all traffic to the Visitor Centre, at which there is ample parking for cars and buses. Public transport is provided by Bus Éireann which currently operates a twice daily bus service between the Visitor Centre and Drogheda (Monday to Saturday only, no Sunday service).

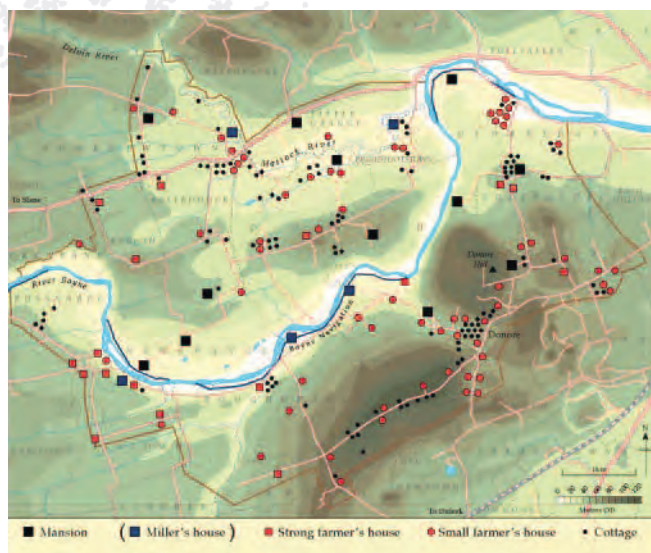


Fig. 38: Map showing 19th century buildings in WHS and Buffer Zone

### 5.10.3 Visitor Experience and Safety

The Management Plan strives to achieve a balance between the conservation of the site, visitor management, local needs, access and safety. A proposed scheme for a new exhibition for Knowth Farm buildings will considerably enhance the visitor experience at that site.

### 5.10.4 Visitor Numbers

The table below provides details of the numbers of visitors to the WHS over the last six years.

## Visitor Numbers

	2009	2010*	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre Only	40,406	37,071	43,820	42,483	44,990	48,735	44,705
Knowth	51,941	49,414	51,962	54,350	51,138	58,883	69,057
Newgrange	130,083	122,785	132,760	132,649	133,616	139,173	150,125
Complimentary Ticket Holders	(7,238)	(7,187)	(12,069)	(11,103)	(11,211)	(13,101)	(14,842)
OPW Free for Schools Scheme	(7,504)	(7,775)	(8,624)	(8,847)	(7,915)	(9,343)	(9,144)
Heritage Card Users	(11,196)	(9,271)	(9,700)	(8,448)	(10,854)	(10,646)	(13,171)
Total Number of Visitors	222,430	209,270	228,542	229,482	229,744	246,791	263,838

\*In 2010, the Visitor Centre and monument were closed for an extended period due to snow. Visitor numbers were also affected during May due to the volcanic ash cloud which affected flights.

## 5.11 SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Within the WHS there is potential to develop, in collaboration with the local community, local property owners and tourism networks, a number of sensitive agritourism initiatives. Any proposed new sustainable tourism activity would have to be appropriate to its setting within the WHS and contribute to maintaining the OUV. Sustainable tourism initiatives might, for example, include escorted walking tours of monuments and other heritage sites within the WHS, or allowing visitors the experience of being temporary residents within the landscape of the WHS by adapting existing traditional buildings for use as short-term holiday letting accommodation. The development of sustainable tourism has actions associated with it and the addition of a Community Forum representative to the Brú na Bóinne Implementation Group is designed to allow the local community to help set the agenda for progress in this area. All actions will have timelines associated with them and will be reported on annually to the Community Forum and to UNESCO.

### 5.11.1 Pilot Study on the Adaptive Re-use of Vacant or Derelict Buildings within the UNESCO Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site

The Brú na Bóinne WHS area contains a range of disused traditional and vernacular buildings ranging in size from the small cottage through to larger two-storey buildings, in addition to a number of former industrial structures and complexes of buildings (Fig. 38). Some of these buildings have the potential to be sustainably re-used, possibly by sensitively adapting and/or extending them. In 2014

Meath County Council, in collaboration with local property owners, the DAHRRGA and the Heritage Council, commenced an innovative pilot project to explore the potential of bringing three of these buildings back to sustainable use.

The 2014 *Pilot Study on the Adaptive Re-use of Existing Buildings and Sites within the World Heritage Landscape of Brú na Bóinne* has a number of objectives:

- To encourage the sustainable re-use of existing buildings within the UNESCO WHS of Brú na Bóinne;
- To demonstrate best practice in the design of extensions and use of materials to give energy efficiency upgrading for the traditional rural building stock;

- To engage with the local community;
- To raise awareness of the contribution of traditional buildings to the landscape.

It is hoped that the model of positive engagement developed during the pilot phase will assist in the ongoing sustainable development management of the WHS. As part of its role in maintaining the character and integrity of the WHS, it is the intention of Meath County Council to continue to provide advice on best practice for the appropriate re-use of existing traditional and vernacular buildings within the WHS area.







# Part 3

## Chapter 6 Issues, Objectives and Actions

### 6.1 STATEMENT OF INTENT

This Management Plan will be used as a tool for the effective implementation of a number of policies and objectives over its lifetime. Where required, actions will be subject to the appropriate environmental assessments, including Appropriate Assessment of the likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites in accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive.

The following outcomes are sought during the 10-year lifetime of the Plan:

- Effective implementation of the actions set out in the Management Plan;
- Allocation of the necessary resources to meet identified requirements;
- Effective monitoring and periodic reporting;
- Dissemination of information and enhanced enjoyment of site for widest possible audience;
- Provision of safe and efficient visitor access;
- Optimal liaison with community and local interest groups:
- Effective conservation and management of both cultural and natural heritage;
- Effective monitoring of conservation and risk assessment;
- Support for the research framework strategy for both the cultural and natural heritage;
- Formal interim review of the Management Plan after five years.



Fig. 39: Early medieval ringfort in Knowth townland

In order to achieve the outcomes in the Statement of Intent over the next 10 years, the various objectives and actions—outlined in Section 6.3 below—will need to be implemented.

## 6.2 OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

The main objectives and key actions proposed in this Plan for Brú na Bóinne WHS reflect the Steering Group's vision and priorities, taking into account the comments and views expressed during the extensive consultation process, which is ongoing. A programme of action for the implementation of these objectives is set out in Appendix 10.

## 6.3 ISSUES

The Management Plan sets out to preserve the OUV of the WHS and its attributes in order to ensure that it continues to have a sustainable future (Fig. 39). The key objectives identified in that context, along with the associated issues and the actions formulated to address them, are set out below.

### 6.3.1 Objective No. 1 – Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

To inform, and seek the co-operation of all stakeholders in the implementation of measures that set out to preserve the OUV of the WHS and to incorporate the protection of the OUV into relevant legislation, planning guidelines and policies.

#### **Issue**

The Management Plan sets out to maintain the OUV of the WHS and its attributes to ensure its continuing sustainable use. Key issues identified in the Management Plan need to be addressed by the development of policies and actions to deal with them.

#### **Actions**

- Establish a Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site Management Plan Implementation Group.
- Appoint a Site Manager and Management Team with overall responsibility for day-to-day management issues arising in relation to the Brú na Bóinne WHS.
- Provide adequate funding, resources and logistical support to: effectively manage Brú na Bóinne; protect the natural and built heritage; continue conservation

works, as necessary and to promote appreciation of the Brú na Bóinne WHS.

- Liaise with public agencies, e.g. ICOMOS Ireland, the Heritage Council and Fáilte Ireland, NGOs, local communities and interest groups, as required, to ensure the effective implementation of the Management Plan.
- Establish and maintain a land ownership map for the Core Area (WHS) and also the Buffer Zone to enable more effective communication and consultation to take place.
- Set up a Community Forum to air issues of concern to the local communities and send a representative to the Implementation Group. The Community Forum will meet at least twice a year to:
  - review ongoing implementation of the Management Plan;
  - consider proposed on-site works programmes;
  - advise on future objectives;
  - provide the Implementation Group with any other relevant comments or observations.

Apart from the establishment of the Community Forum it would also be helpful to set out systems for communication outside those biennial meetings.

Produce an annual report to be submitted to UNESCO and uploaded to [www.worldheritageireland.ie](http://www.worldheritageireland.ie).

### 6.3.2 Objective No. 2—WHS Core Area and Buffer Zones

To monitor and maintain the adequacy of the WHS Core Area and Buffer Zones—in particular the protection of the boundaries of the property and its setting.

#### **Issue**

The Core Area and its Buffer Zone formed part of the original inscription of the Brú na Bóinne WHS. While there are currently no plans to increase or decrease the designated zones, there is a need to protect them from negative impacts from development.

#### **Action**

- To carry out a review and study of the boundaries of the WHS property at regular intervals.
- To monitor the effectiveness of the existing Core Area and Buffer Zones in the protection of the OUV of the

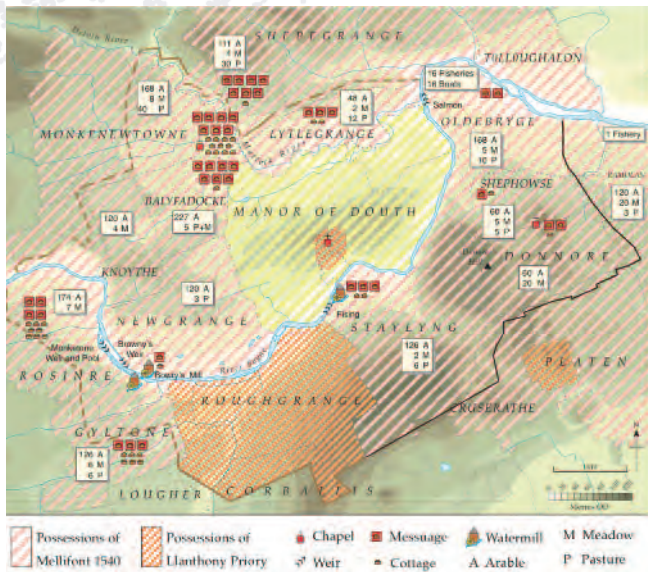


Fig. 40: Medieval land ownership in WHS area

WHS.

- To promote knowledge and understanding of the significance of the WHS Core Area and Buffer Zones among those who manage and promote projects likely to impact upon the zones and those who live within and close to the zones.
- To integrate protective measures for the WHS with development plans and other infrastructural programmes.
- To consult with the Community Forum before making any changes to the boundaries.
- To inform UNESCO of any large-scale or infrastructural schemes that may affect the WHS.

**6.3.3 Objective No. 3–Statutory Protection of the WHS**

Agree adequate measures and procedures with Meath and Louth County Councils for inclusion in their County Development Plans for the protection of the WHS; recommend appropriate measures for adoption in the proposed updating of the National Monuments Act.

**Issue**

The National Monuments Acts, the Planning and Development Acts and the associated Planning Regulations provide the primary tools for achieving appropriate protection from undesirable impacts on the WHS and its OUV as well as individual monuments, their settings, and the greater landscape.

**Action**

- Request Meath County Council and Louth County Council to incorporate the Management Plan 2017 into their respective County Development Plans by invoking appropriate statutory processes, as required.
- Address World Heritage issues in the updating of the National Monuments Acts to secure particular protection for the WHS and protection of its OUV.
- All newly discovered monuments within the WHS and the Buffer Zone will be entered onto the RMP for their protection.

**6.3.4 Objective No. 4–Promotion of the OUV**

To promote a wider knowledge of the significance of the WHS, its OUV, its attributes and other values through the dissemination of information relevant to the WHS and the benefits of its ongoing preservation and conservation.

**Issue**

The presentation of the WHS is a key duty of the State Party to the World Heritage Convention. This will be achieved mainly by access for visitors to the WHS, although remote access, for example via websites, is becoming increasingly important. Sustainable tourism can also provide benefits for the WHS as well as for local communities and the local economy. It is also considered that wider knowledge of the OUV will assist in the conservation, preservation and sustainability of the WHS.

**Action**

- Improve access to relevant information and disseminate such information in various media, including websites and related media through the use of digital technologies.
- Improve access by way of virtual tours of the monuments not open to the public, e.g. Knowth and Dowth.
- Maintain liaison with Meath County Council and Louth County Council with regard to raising the public profile of the WHS OUV.
- Include more promotional material such as solstice events on [www.worldheritageireland.ie](http://www.worldheritageireland.ie).
- Work with OPW to improve arrangements for access to Dowth (South) passage tomb.



**Fig. 41:** Decorated basin stone, eastern tomb, Knowth

### 6.3.5 Objective No. 5—Research and Understanding

To promote and use the existing research framework in order to encourage projects that will inform not only archaeological and related research but also management of the WHS (Fig. 40).

#### **Issue**

A research framework for the WHS has been drawn up which summarises the history and background to research to date within the WHS and indicates areas that would reward further detailed research (Smyth 2009, Fig. 4.10).

#### **Actions**

- Draft terms of reference for, and appoint, an Expert Advisory Committee to advise on best practice for a publication programme and future research.
- Review the research framework at appropriate intervals.
- Enhance the experience of visitors to the site through increasing knowledge of Brú na Bóinne, by encouraging research and by ensuring its results are appropriately disseminated.
- Support any relevant national research programmes.
- Implement the research framework and promote the participation of universities and interested parties in research programmes.
- Establish a research archive.
- Update the exhibition at the WHS Visitor Centre in light of new information and research.

- Work on the new visitor facility at Knowth House and ensure a high quality of information and presentation.
- Continue to give grant aid to the Royal Irish Academy for the Directed Archaeological Research Fund.

### 6.3.6 Objective No. 6 – Conservation of Built Heritage

To preserve the cultural heritage of the WHS and sustain and enhance the WHS OUV and its attributes through the conservation of its archaeology and built heritage including its structures, artwork and landscape (Fig. 41).

Brú na Bóinne is a cultural landscape formed by people and nature. The landscape is known to have both visible and below-surface sites and features of prehistoric, early medieval, medieval and post-medieval date, bearing testimony to a continuous habitation of what is in essence a cultural landscape.

Guidelines such as Good Farming Practice and Archaeology (DEHLG 2003) work with the partnership, interest and respect of individual landowners. Alongside the National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015–2025 (DAHG 2015) they provide the starting point for the discussion and development of a proactive setting and landscape strategy over the timespan of the Management Plan.

#### **Issue**

Archaeological sites in the WHS should be managed to protect and explain their significance, authenticity and

integrity. The artwork at the three main passage tombs is unparalleled and its conservation is a major issue. However, a balance has to be struck between the obligation to present the WHS to the public and its protection. Conservation must take precedence in balancing these twin aims (Brú na Bóinne Management Plan 2002).

### **Actions**

- The condition and vulnerability of all archaeological sites and monuments throughout the WHS will be reviewed regularly to guide future management action and priorities.
- All artwork will be regularly monitored and vulnerabilities identified to inform work plans.
- The setting of visible monuments and sites in the landscape and their inter-relationships will be maintained and enhanced with particular attention given to achieving an appropriate landscape setting for the passage tombs and other key monuments.
- A framework will be created for archaeological survey of the Core Area with an aim of extending the survey out to the Buffer Zone.

### **6.3.7 Objective No. 7–Conservation of State-owned Properties within the WHS**

To preserve the cultural heritage of the WHS, and sustain and enhance its OUV through the conservation of its archaeology and landscape setting.

### **Issue**

Given the nature of the WHS there is considerable focus on the State-owned monuments. With the number of visitors and potential impacts, and the need to properly present the sites, there is a continuing need for ongoing conservation and archaeological works. All such works will be screened for an Appropriate Assessment.

### **Actions**

- Draft a full pre-works survey and a detailed specification for each phase of future works, in advance of any work commencing on the site.
- Prepare a formal, structured maintenance programme for all conserved structures.
- Produce a detailed stratigraphic report of the archaeological excavations for lodgement in the Archive Section, DAHRRGA, and for publication on the website ([worldheritageireland.ie](http://worldheritageireland.ie)).

- Produce a detailed report on all conservation interventions for lodgement in the Archive Section, DAHRRGA.

### **6.3.8 Objective No. 8–Conservation of Natural Heritage**

To identify and protect the natural heritage of the WHS.

### **Issue**

The WHS has a rich natural heritage. The introduction of alien species could have a detrimental effect on biodiversity within Brú na Bóinne and it is important to prevent such occurrences.

### **Actions**

- Prepare and implement a five-year biodiversity plan for the WHS.
- Maintain close co-operation, including regular meetings, between the project team, the Guide service and the NPWS, with an NPWS representative on the site management and implementation committees.
- Apply, as necessary, Ministerial Consent in respect of any operation/activity requiring consent within the SAC/SPA.
- Ensure an Appropriate Assessment is carried out for any plan or project (either individually or in combination) likely to have a significant effect on the species and their habitats for which the SPA or the SAC has been designated.

### **6.3.9 Objective No. 9–Liaison with Local Communities**

The local communities, many of whom actively participate in the conservation, preservation and promotion of the WHS, are stakeholders in its management. The Plan acknowledges and will support the rights of local communities in relation to sustainable socio-economic growth and development. To this end, it recognises that in working to achieve the primary objective of the protection of the OUV of Brú na Bóinne, it must also assist communities to continue to sustain and develop the area's economy and social cohesion.

### **Issue**

The Management Plan sets out to protect the sustainability and encourage the viability of the communities living within the Core Area and Buffer Zone of the WHS. Key to

the sustainability of these communities is their ability to continue to live, work and engage in recreation within the area.

### **Actions**

- Establish a Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site Community Forum to discuss issues relating to the WHS in general and to make observations on the implementation of the Plan.
- Work with Local Authorities to develop a guidance document which provides advice on siting and design in relation to residential and agricultural development within the WHS.
- Work with the Local Authorities to facilitate consultation with applicants regarding the siting and design of developments affecting the UNESCO WHS of Brú na Bóinne, and the scope of any necessary impact assessments.
- Work with the Local Authorities and other relevant agencies in promoting and encouraging sustainable economic development in the area, particularly in tourism and agriculture. Make all reports referenced in this Plan available to the public.
- Examine and, where possible, rectify issues raised in the consultation process. These are listed in Appendices 2 and 3.
- Liaise with Local Authorities on issues raised:
  - signage, liaise with both the Local Authorities and Transport Infrastructure Ireland to ensure that the local roads and motorways have accurate and helpful signage;
  - work with OPW to deal with issues relating to the shuttle bus service and derelict sites in the ownership of the State in order to deal with local concerns;
  - work with OPW to ensure delivery of an online ticketing service;
  - ensure that the Community Forum has access to site managers and officials from DAHRRGA and OPW on a regular basis;
  - work with the Community Forum to ensure that their terms of reference are developed in such a way as to provide influence, accountability and relevance to the Forum and the local community

### **6.3.10 Objective No. 10–Risk Management**

To protect and preserve the OUV of the WHS and its setting by assessing risks and potential risks, reviewing current preparedness and suggesting appropriate corrective measures.

#### **Issue**

Risk Management Plans should be developed to reduce the likelihood and impact of loss of significant features to flood, fire, unauthorised demolition, vandalism etc., and to highlight the cumulative effect of multiple small-scale risks, e.g. theft of stone from monuments.

#### **Actions**

- Identify and evaluate the protection of the WHS and OUV from risks and potential risks.
- Document risks and potential counter-measures.
- Recommend monitoring systems and possible preventative measures and plans.

### **6.3.11 Objective No. 11–Tourism**

To develop the tourism potential of the site and to achieve an appropriate balance with the protection and preservation of the OUV of the WHS and its setting.

#### **Issue**

The full potential of tourism as a stimulus to the local economy may not be realised unless the existence and significance of the WHS is adequately identified and promoted. Conversely, tourism may cause damage if defined capacities are exceeded or if resulting facilities and traffic threaten the authenticity and integrity of the WHS in its spatial context. Therefore, the capacity for tourism-related usage of the WHS must be optimised with the necessary infrastructure put in place to achieve this and appropriate marketing strategies implemented to support sustainable tourism activity.

#### **Actions**

- Ensure that all visitor management and promotion practices are consistent with the maintenance of the OUV of the WHS.
- Maintain ongoing assessment of visitor numbers and management to ensure early identification of potential threats to the OUV.
- Develop an integrated approach involving Ireland's Ancient East, the Boyne Valley Tourism Office, Fáilte



**Fig. 42:** Flooding on the Boyne at Newgrange

Ireland, local tourism networks, Local Authorities, local businesses and local communities in the development of a tourism strategy for the greater area.

- Identify monuments in private ownership which could be made accessible to the public with co-operation from the landowner.
- Advise landowners proposing to allow access to monuments on their land of best practice for visitor management and assist, where possible, with proposals to provide tours or visitor services to sites in the WHS that are not currently accessible.
- Collaborate with the local community, Fáilte Ireland and Meath and Louth County Councils to advise and assist with sustainable agritourism initiatives appropriate to the WHS.

### 6.3.12 Objective No. 12–Effective Management of Visitors and Tourists

To sustainably manage tourism strategies and initiatives in light of the obligation to preserve, conserve and maintain the OUV of the WHS.

#### **Issue**

It is essential that a sustainable balance is maintained between tourism strategies for the region and the preservation of the WHS. It is important to recognise and support cultural tourism insofar as it is compatible with the primary obligation of the conservation, maintenance and protection in perpetuity of this WHS. Visitor numbers

should be actively managed so that they do not impact negatively on Brú na Bóinne.

#### **Actions**

- Continue to review the optimum number of visitors to the individual sites consistent with site protection.
- Education values will also be reviewed by carrying out a detailed assessment of visitor impact and trends.
- Collect visitor statistics for each season and analyse trends.
- Continue to explore sustainable cultural tourism initiatives that have the potential to further deepen the engagement of the local community, visitors and tourists with the WHS.
- Continue to liaise and co-operate with Fáilte Ireland and local tourism bodies to ensure conservation obligations are communicated to tourism agencies.
- Investigate future uses for Knowth House.
- Provide an online booking/ticketing system to create a more flexible and open approach to the tourist experience.

### 6.3.13 Objective No. 13–Visitor Access, Capacity and Interpretation

To ensure that visitors have a safe and informative experience when they visit the site and that a quality service is provided for them.



**Issue**

The provision of an appropriate standard of visitor access and interpretation.

**Actions**

- Maintain a quality Guide service to enhance the visitor experience by ensuring that there are relevant training programmes in place for the Guides.
- Continue to balance the need to preserve the OUV of the WHS while facilitating public access through appropriate management.
- Liaise with Transport Infrastructure Ireland, Meath and Louth County Councils to place internationally recognised UNESCO WHS signage at the boundaries of the site.
- Replace all signs which mention Newgrange when they actually indicate the Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre.
- Discuss with the Local Authority, provision of signage for other attractions in the area.
- Liaise with relevant bodies on a review of the current directional signage.
- Examine, in co-operation with the Local Authorities and residents, the issues relating to road traffic, buses and parking raised by the local community during the consultations associated with the making of this Plan.
- Make use of the arts to interpret and promote the WHS to the people of Ireland and the world.

**6.3.14 Objective No. 14–Climate Change**

To protect and preserve the OUV of the WHS and its setting by reviewing the condition and vulnerability of the sites and monuments and their setting within the WHS and to adjust management actions and guidance accordingly (Fig. 42).

**Issue**

Threats to the WHS from the potential effects of climate change.

The changing climate has the potential to affect the WHS in a number of different ways, and these need to be considered. Negative impacts could occur as a result of changes in temperature, rainfall and flooding patterns, changes in vegetation and biodiversity, and air particle levels.



Fig. 43: Dowth Henge

**Actions**

- Monitor and document, at appropriate intervals, the condition and vulnerability of monuments within the WHS.
- Identify potential threats to the monuments and the OUV. These would include flooding, storm damage, drought and air pollution.
- Take appropriate action and prioritise the protection of monuments.

**6.3.15 Objective No. 15–Impacts from Agriculture**

To protect and preserve the OUV of the WHS and its setting by preventing negative impacts from agricultural activities and by promoting best farming practice (Fig. 43).

**Issue**

The generality of agricultural activity in the area presents no significant threat to the WHS. However, certain agricultural practices, such as inappropriate livestock grazing (at or on monuments), tree planting, hedgerow removal, ground levelling, deep ploughing and farm building renewal and extension, have the potential to impact adversely on the site.

**Actions**

- Monitor agricultural practices within the WHS at appropriate intervals.
- Identify vulnerabilities and potential threats to the OUV.
- Ensure that all practices are consistent with the maintenance of the OUV of the WHS.
- Liaise with the farming bodies (IFA and Teagasc) to

produce good practice guidelines in relation to farming practices within WHSs.

### 6.3.16 Objective No. 16–Sustainable Development Management

To protect and preserve the OUV of the WHS, its attributes and landscape setting by providing appropriate guidance and advice to Local Authorities and development agents concerning the protection of the OUV of the WHS.

#### **Issue**

Threats to the WHS from the impacts and potential impacts of development.

Significant negative impacts on the WHS and its setting can be caused by developments within and adjacent to it. Such impacts may include direct physical impacts, negative visual impacts and the gradual cumulative accretion of intrusive elements.

#### **Actions**

- Protect the WHS and OUV from adverse development impacts.
- Offer appropriate advice and guidance to Local Authorities and relevant development agencies and agents.
- Implement the provisions of the Local Authority Development Plans and other relevant legislation/regulations in a consistent manner.
- Encourage, where appropriate, the conservation and sustainable re-use of existing traditional and vernacular buildings within the WHS.
- Monitor and document, at appropriate intervals, the nature and density of development within and around the WHS.
- Continue, in conjunction with Meath County Council, to provide an integrated pre-planning service where the Local Authority and the DAHRRGA officials will jointly comment on pre-planning issues within the WHS.

### 6.3.17 Objective No. 17–Education

To protect and promote the OUV of the WHS and its setting by highlighting the educational value of the site and its potential to inspire and inform people from across the world due to its unique nature.

#### **Issue**

Provision of outreach services and interpretive and educational material across the widest range of platforms to effectively communicate the OUV of the WHS at Brú na Bóinne.

#### **Actions**

- Continue to promote the WHS as a learning resource to schools, third level institutions, communities and other interested parties.
- Upgrade the information and display in the Visitors Centre to the highest standard and ensure it is reflective of recent archaeological research.
- Ensure that academic publications are followed up with non-specialist material based on the results of the academic work.
- Examine the uses of Knowth House for educational purposes.
- Ensure that the new facility in Knowth House complements the information displayed in the Visitors Centre.
- Create a virtual visit to the WHS for people unable to visit the site.

### 6.3.18 Objective No. 18–Boyne Valley Navigation

To ensure protection of the Boyne Navigation where it passes through the WHS. At the relevant stage of implementation, actions will be screened for Appropriate Assessment, and an Appropriate Assessment carried out where necessary.

#### **Issue**

Ensure that the Boyne Valley Navigation route is effectively incorporated into the visitor experience to enhance the offering provided by the WHS as a whole.

#### **Actions**

- Facilitate the preservation and the restoration of the Boyne Canal and its Navigation where it passes through the WHS and its Buffer Zone.
- Facilitate access to and along the Boyne Canal and Navigation for the purpose of restoration.
- Maintain public access to and along the existing towpath which runs alongside the Boyne Canal.
- Facilitate the provision of a walking and cycling track on the towpath.
- Maintain close co-operation and levels of consultation

with An Taisce, as owners of the Boyne Navigation, in all matters relating to the Boyne Navigation where it passes through the WHS.

- Ensure that all works on the Boyne Navigation are recorded archaeologically and that the underwater and land-based archaeology on and surrounding the site are preserved or excavated.
- Facilitate navigation along the Boyne Canal and relevant sections of the River Boyne where the Navigation passes through the WHS and Buffer Zone

whilst ensuring that it does not pose any likely significant effects on the conservation objectives of the relevant Natura 2000 sites.

The Management Plan is a dynamic document that will evolve as the management priorities shift, conditions on-site change and other factors come into play. It is essential that there is regular monitoring to provide the most up-to-date information. The Management Plan will underpin all management actions carried out in relation to the WHS.

# Chapter 7 Implementing the Brú na Bóinne Management Plan (2017)

## 7.1 IMPLEMENTATION

The Management Plan's objectives and policies set out in Chapter 6 will be achieved through a wide range of projects, to be undertaken by a variety of organisations involved in the WHS.

Under this Plan, the DAHRRGA will establish a Community Forum which will meet at least twice a year to discuss issues relating to the WHS in general and to make observations upon the implementation of the Plan. The membership of the Forum will be drawn from relevant stakeholders, including the communities within the area encompassed by the WHS and from Donore and Slane. The Forum will be encouraged to become a proactive partner in the management of the WHS and will be represented on the Implementation Group which oversees the management of the site. Part of this will be the establishment of direct lines of communication so that the Forum can make its views known directly to WHS management outside of these meetings.

The Management Plan Implementation Group (consisting of representatives drawn from the DAHRRGA, OPW, the County Councils, tourism interests, the Site Management Team, and the Community Forum), together with the objectives and actions identified in the Plan and the annual reports on the Plan, will ensure the sustainability of the Brú na Bóinne WHS for present and future generations. The monitoring required by the Plan will focus on indicators linked to the site's OUV, authenticity and integrity.

The aims and objectives are laid out in Appendix 10. These will now form the basis for annual work plans.

## 7.2 PERIODIC REVIEW

The DAHRRGA, as focal point, in consultation with the OPW, will be responsible for periodic reporting on the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. This is a report that will be submitted to UNESCO providing an

assessment of the legislative and administrative provisions adopted by Ireland and the actions undertaken in relation to the Brú na Bóinne WHS. The next cycle of UNESCO periodic reporting of Ireland's WHSs will take place in 2018.

## 7.3 FUNDING AND RESOURCES

It is important for the effective delivery of the Plan that it is adequately resourced in both funding and staff. All organisations involved should fully recognise the significance of the WHS and devote sufficient resources towards its management.

A number of projects identified in Chapter 6 are additional to the core activities of partner organisations and will require their joint input. Many will require input from existing staff resources and the organisations involved should commit all the necessary time required to collaborative projects.

## 7.4 REVIEWING THE PLAN'S EFFECTIVENESS

It is recognised that, with varying management priorities and other factors stemming from the complexity of the site, the relevance of the Management Plan may change over time. As such, the effectiveness of the implementation of the Plan will be addressed by:

- Production of annual Brú na Bóinne WHS reports and publication of them on [www.worldheritageireland.ie](http://www.worldheritageireland.ie);
- Periodic reporting;
- Monitoring the progress of actions;
- Assessment of the effectiveness of each action to achieve objectives;
- Undertaking interim reviews, as required;
- Extensive reassessment of the Plan after five years.

As these steps are taken, relevant sections of the Plan may need to be updated accordingly and the Plan reissued.



Public consultation may be undertaken to inform relevant stakeholders of new issues, if they arise. All the actions are specified in Appendix 10; together with timelines and

results, these will form the basis for the annual report to UNESCO.

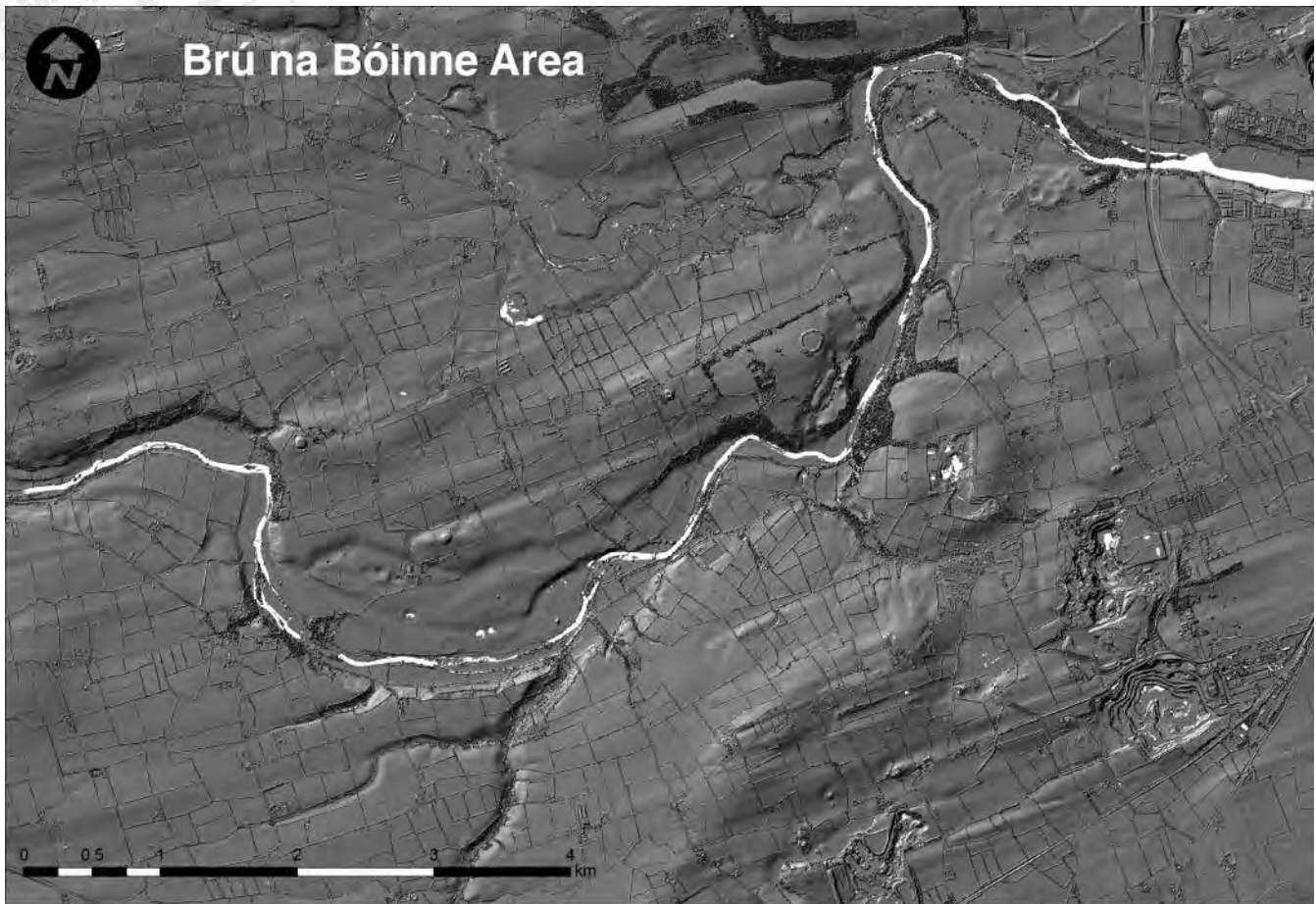


Illustration courtesy of Discovery Programme and Meath County Council

Fig. 44: Lidar mapping of the WHS are at Brú na Bóinne



# Appendices





## Appendix 1 List of members of Steering Group

Name	Details
Brendan McSherry	Heritage Officer, Louth County Council
Emer O'Callaghan	Louth County Council
Marguerite Quinn	Louth County Council
Patrick Gallagher	Meath County Council
Councillor Paddy Meade	Meath County Council
Lorreto Guinan	Heritage Officer Meath County Council
Wendy Bagnall	Meath County Council
Jill Chadwick	Conservation Officer Meath County Council
Councillor Wayne Harding	Meath County Council (Slane)
Frank Lynagh	Slane Historical Society
Gareth Kyne	Boyne Valley Consultative Committee
Ian Doyle	Head of Conservation Unit, The Heritage Council
Michele Whelan	Boyne Valley Tourism Officer
Tómas ÓhÓistín	Representing local interests
Geoffrey Clarke	An Taisce (The National Trust for Ireland)
Gráinne Ward	Fáilte Ireland
Gabriel Cooney	ICOMOS Ireland
Clare Tuffy	Manager, Brú na Bóinne Centre, OPW
Ana Dolan	Senior Conservation Architect, OPW
John Cahill	Senior Conservation Architect, OPW
Patricia Ryan	Higher Executive Officer, OPW
Maurice Eakin	District Conservation Officer, NPWS, DAHRRGA
Marc Ritchie	Architect AHAU, DAHRRGA
Tom Condit	Archaeologist NMS, DAHRRGA
Terry Allen	Principal Officer, NMS, DAHRRGA
Edward Bourke	Senior Archaeologist NMS, DAHRRGA
Paul Connolly	Assistant Principal Officer, NMS, DAHRRGA
Karen Brophy	Higher Executive Officer, NMS, DAHRRGA

**Previous Members**

Name	Details
Gabriel Mullen	Group representing local interests
Councillor Ann Dillon-Gallagher	Meath County Council (Slane)
Councillor Frank Maher	Louth County Council (Drogheda)
Fionnuala Parnell	Assistant Principal Officer, OPW
John Ducie	Properties Officer, An Taisce (The National Trust for Ireland)
Margaret Gowen	ICOMOS Ireland
Eugene Kearney	Group representing local interests
Mark Rowlette	Fáilte Ireland
Brian Lucas	Principal Officer Heritage Policy, DAHRRGA
Margaret Carroll	Assistant Principal Officer, DAHRRGA
Paula McCaul	Acting Boyne Valley Tourism Officer
Gráinne Downey	Boyne Valley Consultative Committee
Eddie Forsyth	Assistant Principal Officer, NMS, DAHRRGA
Catherine Desmond	Archaeologist, NMS, DAHRRGA

## Appendix 2 Summary of first phase of Public Consultation Process

### Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site Management Plan Consultation up to 2011 - Public Submissions

In April 2011 submissions were invited from the public as part of the preparation of a draft new Management Plan for the Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site (WHS). A consultation paper and a draft framework document for the Plan were uploaded to the World Heritage Ireland website [www.worldheritageireland.ie](http://www.worldheritageireland.ie) and a public meeting was held at Brú na Bóinne on 23 June 2011. The final closing date for submissions was 30 September 2011.

Fifty-seven submissions were received by the Department. It should be noted that most of the

submissions addressed more than one issue relating to the WHS. Issues have been extracted from the submissions and are presented below. They have been placed under the relevant headings which are based on UNESCO recommendations. Some of the comments are no longer relevant with actions having been implemented since the submissions were made in 2011. All submissions have been considered in the drafting of the new Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site Management Plan.

#### FACTORS AFFECTING THE PROPERTY

##### MARINE TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE – BOYNE CANAL

- To facilitate the preservation and the restoration of the Boyne Canal and its Navigation where it passes through the WHS and its Buffer Zone.
- To maintain public access to, and on, the existing towpath which runs alongside the Boyne Canal.
- To facilitate the provision of a walking and cycling track on the towpath along the Boyne Canal.
- To facilitate navigation along the Boyne Canal and relevant sections of the River Boyne where the Navigation passes through the WHS or the Buffer Zone.
- To facilitate access to and along the Boyne Canal and Navigation for the purpose of restoration.
- To maintain close co-operation and levels of consultation with An Taisce, as owners of the Boyne Navigation, in all matters relating to same.
- Development of the Boyne Canal would greatly improve the local amenity and allow the unique atmosphere and natural habitat of the area to be better experienced, improve tourist retention within the area and reduce current leakage to Dublin. The alternative access to the Brú na Bóinne facility would potentially increase visitor numbers to the centre.

##### Comments:

This is an issue that is not just relevant to the Management Plan but also to An Taisce and Louth and Meath County

Councils. Any action to be included in the Plan must take cognisance of this. Liaison between all parties should be encouraged in the Management Plan.

##### TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

- Allow admittance to Newgrange from both sides of the river or correct the road signs. Regular maintenance of the area should be a priority in order to ensure a positive image of our WHS thus increasing the likelihood of repeat visits.
- Serious consideration should be given to the possibility of working with landowners to open up access to the wealth of other monuments and places in the WHS.
- A walkway was created in Roughgrange with a car park at the west end but none at the east end, this must be addressed as it is leading to dangerous road traffic conditions.
- A shuttle bus service should be implemented, starting from Drogheda out to Battle of the Boyne Centre at Oldbridge, and on to Donore, Brú na Bóinne, Slane Castle and village, the Hill of Slane, the Francis Ledwidge Museum and back to Drogheda.
- A new Management Plan and team should take cognisance of the potential to develop routeways through the WHS such as a cycleway along the towpath of the Boyne Canal. Such potential developments would mean that new ways of accessing the WHS have to be considered and planned for.

- They could also include a relaxation of the access policy to encourage pedestrian or cycling access to the State-owned monuments. The use of IT booking systems to manage this could add a measure of control. Such a move would also open up the possibility of sustainable local businesses, e.g. bike rental, walking tours.
- If all visitor traffic is encouraged to travel via the M1 and Donore it will lead to fewer people staying in local accommodation and less economic benefit for the local community. There may also be an opportunity to develop an alternative route.
- A developed walking route would create opportunities for local accommodation providers in providing B&B, lunches and luggage forwarding, etc. The developed route would need to have signage and information boards, picnic areas, parking and litter facilities, map guides etc.
- It would seem to make sense to develop a car park area on the north side of the river near the pedestrian bridge. This would allow visitors to come into the centre from the north side of the river (by parking and walking across the bridge to the centre) and participate in the various tours etc. from there.

### Comments:

Any actions arising out of this issue will require close co-operation with the Office of Public Works (OPW), Louth and Meath County Councils, Fáilte Ireland, Transport Infrastructure Ireland and the local community.

### INTERPRETATION/SIGNAGE

- Directional signage to Junction 9, along the R152 from the exit ramp of the M1 at Junction 8 to the exit ramp/roundabout at Junction 9 of the M1 and continuing at every junction on the L1601 towards the Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre, in Drogheda at all major junctions along an axis between Drogheda McBride train station to the N51/M1 (Junction 10) roundabout – including R132/Donore Road, R132/Trinity Street/R168, R132/Patrick Street/R166, R132/Cement Road/Cross Lane/R166, R132/R168 roundabout and R168/Mell roundabout, at all junctions along the N51 between the M1 Junction 10/N51 and the M3 Junctions 8 and 9, on the N2 and N51 at all approaches to Slane village, at the N2/N51 Junction in Slane village, on the M3 at Junctions 8 and 9, in Navan at all road junctions along the rivers Boyne and Blackwater (i.e. N3/N51, R147/R153/R161/R162) and Navan from R147 at all junctions along the L1600 to the Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre.
- Please address the removal of the sign to Dowth. Nobody knows where L1607 leads to.
- A clearer signage system needs to be put in place. It

needs to highlight the difference between travelling to Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre and travelling to Newgrange, Knowth, Dowth and other townlands.

- Signage must be accurate, correct and legal. Slane village should be centre point on any new plan.
- High definition webcams should be installed at all three sites and be freely available on the World Heritage Ireland website in real time. These cameras should be placed in the passage and chamber of Newgrange and Dowth and in each passage of Knowth, in addition to a wide angle view of the exterior of each site. This has the potential to bring the magic of the solar alignments and the sites to a worldwide audience and could be a valuable educational tool throughout the rest of the year.

### Comments:

The provision of an appropriate standard of visitor access and interpretation is an essential requirement for the WHS. It is crucial that visitor numbers are actively managed so that visitor numbers do not impact negatively on Brú na Bóinne. There will be objectives and actions relating to this heading in the Management Plan.

### TOURISM/ECONOMIC IMPACTS

- Any future plan will look to breathe life, energy and positivity into our most historic area, and ensure that tourists can experience a true, hearty, Irish welcome and see our culture and heritage thriving.
- The operation of the WHS must be accepted as a tourism resource – rather than only as a monument conservation resource as at present – and must operate as part of a wider targeted tourist resource encompassing the wide Boyne Valley Area.
- As a matter of urgency, the Department should establish a working relationship with all paper/online mapping companies and travel guide publishers to ensure that all their respective products direct visitors to the Visitor Centre and not the individual sites.
- Re-establishing Slane as a tourist hub is of the utmost importance to create local jobs and stimulate the local economy.
- Increase efforts in the promotion of local accommodation, facilities and related or alternative activities in the area and thus greatly improve the retention of visitors within the area.

### Comments:

Tourism may cause damage if defined capacities are exceeded or if resulting facilities and traffic threaten the authenticity and integrity of the WHS in its spatial context. Therefore the extent of tourism-related use a WHS can tolerate, the necessary infrastructure to do so and limits to tourism development and marketing have to be deter-

mined. There will be objectives and actions in the Management Plan relevant to this heading.

## RESEARCH

- It is recommended that the Draft Management Plan would be underpinned by an up- to-date understanding of the WHS as set out in the *Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site, Research Framework* and by current research.
- The new Management Plan will hopefully create an explicit link between the research carried out in the WHS and environs and the Management Plan.
- The Plan might include measures to allow for the implementation of at least some of the recommendations of the research framework document including some mechanism for the funding or at least active facilitation of ongoing research incorporating new technologies.
- The lack of action on the refurbishment of Knowth House as a research and education centre, despite planning permission being sought and granted, is most disappointing.
- Remote sensing techniques like Lidar survey, monitoring of aerial photographic imagery, monitoring of multi-spectral and hyperspectral imagery could be considered. This could be integrated with terrestrial geophysics and field inspection.
- A research group could be formally set up under the aegis of the emerging Management Plan to advise on the implementation of the research framework, and on how new research findings can be reflected in management and interpretation.
- Maintain support for the Knowth publication project, now in its final stages, and for a publication aimed at the general public.
- Geoarchaeology should to be included in the new Management Plan. There is still much that can be achieved in terms of sourcing the lithic materials utilised in megalithic passage tomb construction at Brú na Bóinne.
- Engagement with the local community and landowners, focus on landscape not just monuments, dedicated research programme, remote sensing and digital recording and dissemination.
- Any plan should be dynamic, taking into account the requirements and potential benefits of ongoing research and tailoring, where appropriate, visitor experiences to these.

### Comments:

UNESCO recommends that science and research are identified as objectives of a management plan. A number of

actions should then be easily adapted from this objective. Actions can be extracted from the above submissions and should be included in the new Management Plan.

## CORE AREA/BUFFER ZONE

- As set out in the research framework, it is recommended that under the new Management Plan previous work on the boundaries and Buffer Zone needs to be revisited and built upon to provide a robust setting and landscape-use strategy to aid future planning and management of the WHS. Such a review should be informed by an examination of definitions in existing policy documents, legislation and case studies.
- The Core Area should be expanded to include at least the north-facing slopes of the south valley of the River Boyne and preferably the entire current Buffer Zone.
- Through engagement and agreement with the local community, the Core Area and Buffer Zone and an appropriate extent of the surrounding landscape should be designated as an Archaeological and Ecological National Park with appropriate regulation and protection measures.
- Define more accurately the landscape setting and its role/contribution to the Outstanding Universal Values (OUV) of the WHS. This should include lands within the Core Area and the Buffer Zone.

### Comments:

The Core Area and its Buffer Zone formed part of the original inscription of the Brú na Bóinne WHS. There are no plans to increase or decrease the designated zones. However, there is a need to protect them from the negative impacts of development. The Department should continue to monitor the effectiveness of the existing Core Area and Buffer Zones in protecting the OUV. There will be objectives and actions in the Management Plan relevant to this heading.

## PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

- To integrate protective measures with development plans and other infrastructural development plans.
- The new Management Plan should include specific and explicit reference to this community and to the planning requirements that exist within same.
- A radical overhaul of our planning structures and procedures is required. The common good of a living community is dependent on an all-inclusive fair-minded process.
- A Local Area Plan should be prepared for the area following the completion and endorsement of the new (WHS) Management Plan.

- Planning issues should be resolved so people can live in their community. By working together we can increase tourism in the area for the benefit of Brú na Bóinne and the local community.
- Planning issues in the area need to be as fair as possible.
- There needs to be balance and fairness for local planning applications.

### Comments:

Article 5 of the World Heritage Convention states the responsibility 'to adopt a general policy which aims to give the cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of the community and to integrate the protection of that heritage into comprehensive planning programmes'.

### LAND CONVERSION, E.G. AGRICULTURAL (CROPS AND LIVESTOCK)

- Agriculture is the main, and in many cases the only, source of income to people in the Core Area and Buffer Zones. Any proposed activities which are currently in use and acceptable elsewhere could result in less income to the farming community.
- Large-scale routine assessment of plough damage within the WHS should be undertaken at regular intervals with appropriate measures taken to deal with problems where identified.
- Reservations were expressed in relation to restrictions that will be placed on farming that would threaten the viability of farming enterprise.
- While being mindful and respectful of the important historical site in our midst, local farmers need to be allowed to progress and modernise their farms and farming systems appropriately.
- There needs to be more encouragement for farmers to develop their lands so as the area as a whole can be enhanced.
- Identify what features in the landscape must be maintained, managed and protected. Ensure appropriate monitoring and management strategies are put in place and agreements with private landowners where necessary. Use agricultural support systems as appropriate. Adopt proactive approaches to mitigating the cumulative impact of recent developments.

### Comments:

There are currently several sources of potential activities within the WHS that could have impacts on its OUV, including agricultural practices such as livestock erosion, tree planting, hedgerow removal, levelling, deep ploughing and farm building renewal and extensions. There will be objectives and actions in the Management Plan relevant to this heading.

### IDENTITY, SOCIAL COHESION, CHANGES IN LOCAL POPULATION AND COMMUNITY

- One of the key requisites for the designation must be recognition of the local people and communities. Planning must not be any more restrictive than in other areas, as the importance of having a living countryside must be a key element of the designation.
- Donore village should be acknowledged in this plan and promoted as a destination and Heritage Village under public/private auspices. Incorporate the Battle of the Boyne centre in the overall plan.
- Having a WHS in our midst should be a positive thing. It should benefit the local community in lots of ways. Many people feel that there is little or no benefit for the local community at present and in fact for many people there are disadvantages, inconveniences and barriers to development.
- The local community must have an ongoing involvement in the operation of the Management Plan.
- A sea-change in attitude is needed on the part of officialdom (OPW, tourism bodies, Department, County Councils etc.) Rather than seeing it as an archaeological area only, it should be recognised for what it is – a living landscape that has been farmed.
- Include a specific section in the draft Plan for the local community, recognising the importance of partnership in designing and effecting the draft Plan.
- The Management Plan must have at its core the building of bridges with the surrounding communities and Slane village. These communities must be given a sense of ownership of this unique, ancient landscape.
- The villages and rural communities in and around the WHS of Brú na Bóinne have not benefitted in any real way from the World Heritage status bestowed on the area. This is the most important aspect of any new plan that can be adopted.
- The protection of local heritage, landscape, waterways and flora and fauna becomes redundant should there be no similar protection of the interests of the people.
- The consultation, consideration and reflection envisaged as an integral part of the formulation of the plan cannot focus only on the stones and earth which make up the assorted monuments in the area but must also take real account of the people who live there.
- It is recommended that other measures to explore greater community involvement in the Brú na Bóinne WHS could be considered. This should include ongoing community involvement in the management structures emerging from the new Management Plan. Dialogue

with Meath Partnership (Leader Company) should be initiated over the possible funding of sustainable local businesses to maximise the value of the WHS and to thereby build community support by demonstrating WHS status as a resource.

- Create a historic park, with access improvements, walks and related amenities and ensure that there is a synergy between the heritage of the area and its management as a living/working landscape and benefits for the local community/economy.

**Comments:**

Account needs to be taken of the desires, wishes and needs of the local community while protecting the OUV of the site. Actions can be extracted from the above submissions and may be included in the new Management Plan.

**VISITOR CENTRE**

- The OPW should be allowed to protect and maintain the monuments, which is what it excels at, and a tourist agency or private company be given the opportunity to run the Interpretive Centre, thus providing employment to local people.
- The current time allowance for visitors has been noted as being overly restrictive.
- The various opening times which exist throughout the year should be consolidated into two categories: summer and winter.
- The village of Slane and its people are crying out for a Heritage Centre.
- By focusing on the megalithic art, especially on the exterior of the tombs, visitor numbers to the sites could be managed and facilitated in a different way, particularly if combined with new and sustainable modes of access to the sites, i.e. cycleways.

**Comments:**

All the employees of the OPW at the site live locally—those employed in the Tea Rooms, the shop in the Visitor Centre, the Guides who work at the monuments and the OPW staff based in Knowth Sub Depot. There are 37 permanent staff and 65 seasonal staff currently employed by the OPW.

In peak season, there is a maximum time allowed to be inside the chamber at Newgrange. This is to facilitate all the visitors equally. In off season, there is much more flexibility and fewer restrictions. The opening times have evolved over many years to best suit visitors. In November, December and January, the Visitor Centre closes at 5.00pm as the evenings are dark. However, in February the opening hours are extended by 30 minutes and continue to be

extended over the following months until in high season the Visitor Centre is open from 9.00am until 7.00pm.

**TECHNICAL**

- The local community engagement is pivotal to the future of the WHS and without a dedicated onsite manager this engagement will not be possible.
- Specific qualitative and quantitative metrics, including deadline dates, should be included within Chapter 5 of the Management Plan.
- In order to promote consistency and clarity for all stakeholders, a single term should be used to describe the WHS and I would suggest “Brú na Bóinne”.
- The Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs should engage with the Department of Transport and the Irish Aviation Authority to re-classify airspace in the Archaeological Park/ WHS to prohibit movements below 3,000ft.
- The various activities and strategies need to be actively managed. It is also considered necessary to ensure strict regulation and provide guidance as to acceptable change and new development.
- It is our view that there are considerable existing assets within the area that are not being optimised, with detrimental results to both the visitor experience and the economic benefit and sustainable development within the local area.

**Comments:**

The official name of the WHS is now ‘Brú na Bóinne – Archaeological Ensemble of the Bend of the Boyne’. All points raised above will be considered during the drafting of the Management Plan. The above submissions are varied and some are outside the scope of the Management Plan.

**THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ARE OUTSIDE THE REMIT OF THE DEPARTMENT:**

Policy HER67 of the current Meath County Development Plan which implements the aforementioned Policy and Regulations is in my opinion discriminatory and in breach of the constitutional rights of the people in this area.

**CURRENT PHASE OF CONSULTATION 2013–2015:**

The current Management Plan was to last from 2002 to 2007. World Heritage was managed by another section until 2012. There was a consultative process which lasted until 2011 and then that section passed the responsibility on to the National Monuments Service in mid-2012.

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As our service was new to the situation, we reopened the consultative process in order to get to know the stakeholders and deal directly with their concerns. This process lasted until spring this year and the new plan of 2016 is

designed to take on board as many of their concerns as possible. A detailed list of the issues raised in the second phase of consultation is included as Appendix 3.



# Appendix 3 Submissions to 2nd Phase of Consultation and Responses

Address line 1		Address line 2		Summary		Actions/Comments	
Kinsale		Co. Cork		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Picture PERF marketing offer, not specifically related to the management plan.</li> </ol>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noted</li> </ol>	
Knouth				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objects to the word extensive in our description of public consultation.</li> <li>The term undesirable development in Meath County Development plan is too subjective.</li> <li>Flora and fauna receive more protection than the local community.</li> <li>Tourists bussed back to Dublin after visit, road signs omit visits to local businesses, no planning permission to encourage businesses. Wants review of public transport.</li> <li>Clarification on pre-planning process and the role of DAHRRGA required.</li> <li>The majority of land within the Buffer Zone is privately owned, yet the local community is not listed as a major stakeholder.</li> <li>It is imperative that joint pre-planning initiatives are set up to provide clear pre-planning guidelines.</li> <li>Objects to the use of the phrase " a significant portion of the lands in the core are owned by the State" .</li> <li>Unhappy with level of local involvement in management.</li> </ol>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noted.</li> <li>Matter for local authority, noted.</li> <li>Noted.</li> <li>Signage issue to be addressed, planning permission is a local authority matter, bussing tourists in and out of the area is a problem countrywide.</li> <li>Clarification given DAHRRGA are statutory consultees under the Planning Acts, decisions are taken by the County Council.</li> <li>The local community are major stakeholders.</li> <li>This has been clarified and is Action 16.6 in the plan.</li> <li>Amended to - surrounding the main monuments - notes that private landowners own most of the land in the WHS.</li> <li>The local interests are on the implementation group, but do not have an input into day to day running of the major monuments in the WHS.</li> </ol>	
Drogheda		Co. Louth		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To restore the historic Boyne Navigation from Drogheda to Navan, access by boat. Maintain public access to towpath and walking track.</li> </ol>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All these issues are objectives of the Plan.</li> </ol>	
Newgrange		Co. Meath		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Road signage is confusing both for tourists and emergency services.</li> <li>Road maintenance and width.</li> <li>WHS restricts local economy, closure of B&amp;Bs.</li> </ol>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Signs for Newgrange are actually for Donore, they should read Brú na Bóinne WHS, this is to be rectified.</li> <li>Wants road past Newgrange widened. This can be discussed with the Local Authority and the Community Forum.</li> <li>Survey to be conducted by Local Authority on this issue.</li> </ol>	

Address line 1	Address line 2	Summary	Actions/Comments
Newgrange	Co. Meath	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. DAHRGA and OPW and local authorities hold local residents in utter disregard. Concerns that a strategy to depopulate the area is active.</li> <li>2. Meath County Council more stringent in its planning restrictions than Louth County Council.</li> <li>3. Prohibition on building of reasonable family living space, but it is not feasible to operate a full time farm from miles away.</li> <li>4. States that Section 1.1 says that Brú na Bóinne is contiguous with a portion of the Louth county boundary, but it does in fact contain land within Louth.</li> <li>5. No data to support any economic value to the Core Area and Buffer Zone. Not possible to start businesses in the area, broadband is not fully available. The plan can be made to address these issues, to repair suspicions.</li> <li>6. Section 5.1 which deals with ownership structures. Claims she has had a four year delay in acknowledging her previous submission and has had absolutely no communications with either DAHRGA or OPW since. Believes that the attempt to update our ownership data has a sinister purpose, this section is weighted with a suspicion of "big brother".</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No such strategy exists. One -off housing is discouraged everywhere in rural Meath, as is the requirement to be able to demonstrate a need in the case of agriculturally zoned land.</li> <li>2. Louth County Council has land in the Buffer Zone, the Core Area is entirely in County Meath.</li> <li>3. Demonstration of need in relation to working in agriculture is part of the County Development Plan. Those family members not involved in agriculture cannot demonstrate that need.</li> <li>4. The WHS is in County Meath, the Buffer Zone is partly in County Louth.</li> <li>5. We are cooperating and part financing a report on the economy of the WHS, based on this we will include new actions in the plan as appropriate.</li> <li>6. There was a delay from c. 2011 to 2013 when this section took over, but the Department has met the respondent on at least five occasions since then. The reason for updating our information on land ownership is to allow proper communication with the landowners in the Core Area and Buffer Zones.</li> </ol>

Newgrange	Co. Meath	<p>7. The Community Forum can establish the co-operation of all stakeholders. A representative from this forum needs to sit on the Implementation Group. The community should be consulted on any periodic reports.</p> <p>8. No specific website for Newgrange.</p> <p>9. Both DAHRRGA and OPW make planning recommendations. DAHRRGA refused to allow planning discussions at the steering committee.</p> <p>10. Meath County Council and DAHRRGA defaulted on the decision to ensure that all stakeholders be involved at pre-planning meetings.</p> <p>11. Knowth House could be used as an education centre.</p> <p>12. The Boyne river should be as protected as the monuments in the area, the restoration of the towpath should not impact the OUV. SPA and SAC need to be protected from any infrastructural or tourist development.</p> <p>13. Signage - it is incredible that this issue has not been resolved.</p> <p>14. Education section is surprisingly blank.</p> <p>15. Boyne towpath should add protection of OUV to this.</p>	<p>7. The Community Forum will have a representative on the implementation group and will have an input into periodic reporting. This was agreed in advance.</p> <p>8. There is a website for both our WH Sites, the Department sees no need for a separate Newgrange website as it is part of the Archaeological Ensemble.</p> <p>9. This is untrue. As planning issues were the main bone of contention we asked that they would be left until the end of each meeting so that non-contentious issues could be discussed first.</p> <p>10. There was an issue which was resolved with weeks and the Joint Pre-Planning meetings are agreed and in the plan.</p> <p>11. There is an action to decide a role for Knowth House in the plan.</p> <p>12. Agreed, there are a series of actions in relation to the river and canal.</p> <p>13. This action is in the plan.</p> <p>14. Noted.</p> <p>15. Agreed.</p>
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Address line 1	Address line 2	Summary	Actions/Comments
Rossin	Co. Meath	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 1987 there was a proposal for an Archaeological Park. 27 families had converted their houses into B&amp;Bs, there were 20 buses daily visiting and stopping for food and drink. Now there is no tourist business in Slane village.</li> <li>WHS managers have no knowledge of the local area, there is lack of consultation and no acknowledgement of submissions.</li> <li>Management of WHS should be left to locals.</li> <li>Road signage is misleading. Battle of the Boyne signage should be on both sides of the river.</li> <li>Action 27 of the original plan should be implemented immediately.</li> <li>Visitors should be going to the sites they want to go to not the sites that DAHRRGA want them to go to.</li> <li>Locals should be employed as much as possible. Local enterprises should be encouraged as much as possible.</li> <li>Over 1 billion euro has been taken from our area. We will go to UNESCO if necessary.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This issue needs to be dealt with and we will co-operate, however, most bus companies now go directly to the site and then return to Dublin. This is a problem on the Cliffs of Moher and on other iconic sites. There has to be a national strategy for this which we would be happy to co-operate with.</li> <li>Managers and support staff do know the local area. Since this section has taken over the running of WHS all submissions have been acknowledged.</li> <li>Noted.</li> <li>Agreed.</li> <li>Action 27 of the 2002 Plan states that we will seek to have Meath and Louth County Councils formally adopt the Management Plan and append it to their County Development Plans.</li> <li>The current arrangements in relation to Knowth and Newgrange are intended to limit the amount of attrition to these specific sites. We would be happy to co-operate with tourism to monuments on privately owned land.</li> <li>Most of the guide services are staffed by locals as are the maintenance crews for the monuments. The depot that supplies extra staff is also in the county.</li> <li>Noted.</li> </ol>

	<p>9. Section 4.11.2 of the existing plan should be removed as it discriminates against larger families.</p> <p>10. Please don't take it that we do not want a WHS but appoint people who will work with the local community and let us benefit as they do in other World Heritage Sites.</p> <p><b>Appendix 1</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Four of the major landowners in the area have died under strange circumstances, two died by shooting, one drowned and one died in a quad bike accident. All were very hard working, decent people and all had problems with Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</li> <li>2. As stated B&amp;Bs have closed.</li> <li>3. People set up horse and cart rides, but were moved on.</li> <li>4. Hotel in Slane sold; many shops shut.</li> <li>5. Our young people have to move elsewhere to look for jobs or to find a place to build a home.</li> <li>6. Farmers need a measuring tape to ensure they do not plough too deep.</li> </ol>	<p>9. Section 4.11.2 of the 2002 plan relates to the four international conventions signed by Ireland - Granada Convention (1985); Valetta Convention (1991); The Ramsar Convention (1984) and the Berne Convention. Do not understand how these affect large families.</p> <p>10. Noted.</p> <p><b>Appendix 1</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Noted.</li> <li>2/5 Dealt with above.</li> <li>6. Noted.</li> </ol>
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Address line 1	Address line 2	Summary	Actions/Comments
Kilkenny	Co. Kilkenny	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft does not follow joint publication 'Managing Cultural World Heritage' or UNESCO World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy 2011.</li> <li>Important to link heritage sector to wider communities.</li> <li>Maintain support to Knowth publication process, research framework recommendations.</li> <li>Provide a Site Manager.</li> <li>Provide public archaeology/community archaeology/data collection and interpretation role to the Community Forum.</li> <li>Welcomes idea of annual report and Objective 6.</li> <li>Objective 7 should include opportunities for research and public engagement in relation to any interventions (as per the Ennane Charter on interpretation).</li> <li>Should include dialogue with the local Leader Agency in Objective 11.</li> <li>Dislikes the term appropriate in 17 of the actions.</li> <li>Section 7.1 mentions indicators for management but does not specify them.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noted</li> <li>Agreed, however, this is on an ad hoc basis at the moment and until resources allow no staff can be allocated for this.</li> <li>This is being maintained up to the publication of the Megalithic Art Volume and will then be reviewed.</li> <li>Site Manager appointed.</li> <li>Community Forum is to be set up initially to give feedback and to have some managerial role in relation to the implementation group. They will be asked what other roles they would like to take on.</li> <li>Noted.</li> <li>Resourcing issue</li> <li>Include.</li> <li>Noted.</li> <li>Noted.</li> </ol>
Littlegrange	Co Louth	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning matters, believes that our position as Statutory Consultee means that we are being false when we claim that the final decision is not ours.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noted.</li> </ol>

		<p>2. Wants an effective feedback loop so that the local community knows exactly what the State wants.</p> <p>3. His pig farm (in the Buffer Zone) needs serious investment to keep up with the competition. The farm is facing a choice between development or dereliction.</p>	<p>2. This action is in the Plan.</p> <p>3. This could be easier dealt with through a meeting.</p>
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Address line 1	Address line 2	Summary	Actions/Comments
Dundalk	Co. Louth	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, Site Manager, Community Forum welcome.</li> <li>2. Information on monitoring of WHS Core Area and Buffer Zones required. The role of the Research Framework in informing any reassessment of the current boundaries should be explicit.</li> <li>3. Wants clarification on registration.</li> <li>4. Promotion of OUV-online, offer of help from his institution.</li> <li>5. Research Framework wants the group who managed this to be reconstituted as the Expert Advisory Group.</li> <li>6. Wants a fund and temporary exhibition space to be allocated in the visitor centre to show the results of recent research.</li> <li>7. Wants references to universities replaced by third level institutions.</li> <li>8. Wants fund for WHS research.</li> <li>9. Archive welcomed, suggests Knowth House as a venue.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Noted.</li> <li>2. We have just completed periodic reporting and made no changes. All material aspects will be reviewed including the Research Framework when this is revisited in five years time.</li> <li>3. Any new monument discovered within the WHS will be Registered under the National Monuments Acts, to give it the same level of protection as sites already on the RMP.</li> <li>4. Noted.</li> <li>5. The expert advisory group will be constituted but will not be a large group and will deal with all aspects of the WHS.</li> <li>6. Temporary exhibition space will be looked at in relation to the redevelopment of Knowth House and in relation to the new displays at the Visitor Centre.</li> <li>7. Agreed.</li> <li>8. This year we have funded a "Directed Archaeological Research Fund" aimed at improving management of the archaeological resource within WHS and in relation to sites on the Tentative List.</li> <li>9. All archaeological archives are lodged with the National Monuments Service at our facility in Swords, where the material is located together with the artefacts held by the National Museum.</li> </ol>



		<p>10. Landowners should be made stakeholders.</p> <p>11. Built heritage: clarify landscape setting for passage tombs. Conservation of State-owned properties within WHS - only if absolutely necessary.</p> <p>12. Liaison with local communities: planning should be transparent. Tourism should minimise impact on WHS. Tourism Plan needed.</p> <p>13. Visitors access, impact from agriculture, threat to subsurface archaeology from deep ploughing.</p> <p>14. Says Battle of the Boyne site should be mentioned and that any actions outlined in the WHS Management Plan should apply to that. States that research on the lands of the Battle of the Boyne must relate only to the battle and that researchers' outputs cannot carry the researchers' name.</p>	<p>10. Landowners are stakeholders and can refuse access to researchers.</p> <p>11. Conservation only carried out when necessary. Piecemeal survey is the current problem so full compilation of material is required.</p> <p>12. We are happy to cooperate with the relevant authorities in relation to economic development but are not the lead agency in this.</p> <p>13. Ploughing is allowed, it is after all agricultural land any modifications to land use would be by agreement.</p> <p>14. Noted.</p>
<p>Rosenallis</p>	<p>Co. Laois a</p>	<p>1. Congratulations on the Plan. But wants other non monumental issues in Plan such as styles of gates, placenames, types of and removal of field boundaries.</p> <p>2. Wants less regimented tours for "culturally curious" tourists.</p> <p>3. Congratulations on adaptive re-use of vacant or derelict buildings.</p> <p>4. Wants a competition for Manager and for there to be at least one experienced archaeologist on the team.</p> <p>5. Need for continuous archaeological research.</p> <p>6. Suggests opening up some monuments on private land.</p> <p>7. Worried about damp and possible algae in the passage and in the tomb at Newgrange.</p>	<p>1. Noted.</p> <p>2. This point and point 7 require input from the local community. We would be delighted for such an initiative to take place and would support it.</p> <p>3. Noted.</p> <p>4. Manager appointed (Senior Conservation Architect), one experienced archaeologist on team and two more on the Implementation Group.</p> <p>5. Noted.</p> <p>6. See 2. above.</p> <p>7. This suggestion would be taken up if monitoring showed excessive attrition in the monument.</p>

Address line 1	Address line 2	Summary	Actions/Comments
Merrion Square	Co. Dublin	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. IAI welcomes pilot study on re-use of vacant buildings, and the appointment of a site manager.</li> <li>2. IAI wants to see a commitment for a financial foundation to support research.</li> <li>3. Offers its help in relation to Sustainable Development Management.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Noted.</li> <li>2. A small research budget for World Heritage Sites and sites on our Tentative list has been set up and is administered by the Royal Irish Academy (Standing Committee for Archaeology).</li> <li>3. Noted.</li> </ol>
Slane	Co. Meath	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Bypass Slane campaign was set up to prevent further deaths and injuries and promote road safety. 23 people have already been killed.</li> <li>2. The stated intention of Meath County Council to bypass Slane be included in the Management Plan.</li> <li>3. Areas outside the Buffer Zone have been subject to draconian planning restrictions.</li> <li>4. No socio-economic benefits for locals.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Noted. This issue is a matter for Transport Infrastructure Ireland and the local authority.</li> <li>2. Points out that we are asking WHS status to be taken into account in other stakeholders plans and that we should mention Meath County Council's plans for a bypass in ours. Road infrastructure outside the WHS and its Buffer Zone are outside of our remit, unless the road is visible from the WHS.</li> <li>3. The issue of protected views in relation to the Core Area. An Bord Pleanála refused the road scheme.</li> <li>4. There are 37 full time employees in the Visitor Centre and up to 37 part time employees in the high season. We are working with Fáilte Ireland on Ireland's Ancient East which will have Brú na Bóinne as one of its centrepieces. We are also supporting initiatives by the local authorities in relation to derelict structures etc.</li> </ol>

		<p>5. A bus service could bring tourists to Slane village from the monument.</p> <p>6. Local schools should get a free tour of the monument</p>	<p>5. Car and bus parking provided at Visitor Centre, buses are used within the WHS. Provision of bus services outside the area is a matter to be discussed with either Bus Éireann or with private sector companies, we would be happy to be party to those discussions.</p> <p>6. Local schools do get free tours of the monuments.</p>
<p>Dowth</p>	<p>Co. Meath</p>	<p>Former chair of BVCC.</p> <p>1. Concerns over planning, signage, farming and tourist buses etc. were not addressed.</p> <p>2. Serious change in mindset by the Government Bodies is required otherwise the plan will not be accepted by locals who have had to put up with a lot over the last number of years.</p>	<p>1. See above</p> <p>2. Once this section took over managing World Heritage, we promised to be inclusive and to listen. We are aware that a level of trust needs to be built up and that this will take time.</p>
<p>Dowth</p>	<p>Co. Meath</p>	<p>1. Buses damaging roads and using her road frontage as a pull in area.</p> <p>2. Tourists lost due to confusing signage.</p>	<p>1. This is a matter for the Local Authority. However this will be raised with Meath County Council. The issue of using her house will be taken up with OPW.</p> <p>2. See Above.</p>

Address line 1	Address line 2	Summary	Actions/Comments
Dowth	Co. Dublin	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All stakeholders should be involved in pre-planning to ensure consistency and transparency.</li> <li>Locals being refused planning permission, feel discriminated against.</li> <li>Confusing signage and lack of local amenities in the core area.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seeking planning permission is a private business and only those directly involved either as applicants or as agents of the Planning Authority and the Statutory Consultees can be involved.</li> <li>Contrasts large developments outside the WHS with much smaller developments within it.</li> <li>See Above.</li> </ol>
Rúnaí Coiste na Mí C.L.G.	Co. Meath	Coiste na Mí strongly endorses the submission made by Slane GAA, as it is vital for its survival as a viable club into the future.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noted.</li> </ol>
Parsonstown		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Broadly welcomes the plan.</li> <li>Lack of involvement of local community as stakeholders. Issues and concerns grow because of lack of consultation.</li> <li>Plan must have greater focus on community involvement. Community forums and a newsletter requested to brief locals and a conference on developments.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noted.</li> <li>Consultation is at the heart of this plan.</li> <li>Community Forum will be discussed and hopefully agreed, prior to the adoption of the plan (Year 1 means in position fully during year 1.). The newsletter and conference can be discussed with the Community Forum once it is in position.</li> </ol>
Knowth	Co. Meath	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Siblings and planning, mentions that some have applied for siblings or children within the Core Area and been refused. Then applied for land they owned in a different parish and were refused on the ground of local needs.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is a matter for the local authority.</li> </ol>

		<p>2. Says Meath County Council states that only modest extensions will be approved but refuses to say what a "modest" extension is.</p> <p>3. States that prior to there being a plan buses used to go to Slane with tourists every day during the summer but now none do. Hotels bars and shops closed.</p> <p>4. Slane school has more pupils due to housing estates in the village but rural sections of the parish get no planning permissions.</p> <p>5. Same issue on signage.</p> <p>6. Personal issue is planning permission he wishes to extend a house in Knowth, says he is willing to work with the "powers that be" but that does not work either.</p> <p>7. Says he is surprised that there is no tour based around the monuments of the area.</p>	<p>2. This is a matter for the local authority.</p> <p>3. This issue could be raised with Fáilte Ireland who are responsible for the initiatives associated with the Boyne Drive.</p> <p>4. The concentration of housing estates in villages rather than permitting one-off housing is government policy.</p> <p>5. See above.</p> <p>6. Pre-planning facility is now available to allow consultation simultaneously with DAHRGA and the local authority on pre-planning issues. This is precisely the kind of advice he would need.</p> <p>7. See response to issue 3, this section. Also there is an action encouraging tourism to the non State-owned monuments.</p>
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Address line 1	Address line 2	Summary	Actions/Comments
Slane Community Forum		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Represents 35 businesses and voluntary groups in Slane. Hope for the future in the Plan. The close relationship between Slane village and the WHS should be recognised in the Plan.</li> <li>2. Updated version of the Boyne Valley Integrated Development Plan be drafted and included in the Management Plan. DAHRRGA and Meath County Council should promote sustainable tourism and economic development.</li> <li>3. Slane is ideally located to play a role in such an initiative. Change ticketing policies to increase economic benefit to community.</li> <li>4. Plan does not recognise the socio-cultural links that exist between Slane and the WHS. Slane has not been developed as a key gateway to the WHS.</li> <li>5. Visitors Centre does not redirect tourist to the wider region. Community Forum excludes non-residents within the boundaries of the WHS.</li> <li>6. Slane disadvantaged because the new N2 Slane bypass has been refused, largely because of its visibility from part of the Core Area.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pleased to see hope for the future in the plan. The residents of Slane and Donore will be part of the Community Forum.</li> <li>2. While we cannot wait for a new plan to be drafted we can be involved with sustainable tourism, but are not the lead agency in this regard.</li> <li>3. Ticketing is run centrally through the Visitor Centre, however, there may be an IT solution to this that we could look into.</li> <li>4. Will be recognised in Plan (see above). The development of Slane as a key gateway would have to be dealt with in tandem with the other stakeholders.</li> <li>5. This is true and can be addressed with management. Slane community forum are stakeholders and will be invited to join our Community Forum.</li> <li>6. There is supposed to be a revised design coming from the NRA at the moment. The refusal of the N2 was made by An Bord Pleanála.</li> </ol>
Blanchardstown/On behalf of GAA Club	Co Dublin	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Planning matters: Siblings of farmers are not allowed to build on their own lands.</li> <li>2. Planning situation affecting local businesses, creating tension. No response to queries from Meath County Council.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. This situation is true for all rural areas in Meath, not just for the sites in the WHS.</li> <li>2. This is a matter for Meath County Council.</li> </ol>

		<p>3. Sign posts are confusing tourists and locals.</p> <p>4. Buses do not take tourists to historic attractions around Slane.</p> <p>5. Clubhouse required for Slane GFC. Numbers at local GAA clubs have dwindled. Slane GAA club's future is dependant on maintaining population. Facilities required for local clubs.</p>	<p>3. See above.</p> <p>4. The buses bringing tourists from the Visitor Centre to Newgrange and Knowth only operate within the Core Area. Buses bringing people to the WHS make their own arrangements. Some resolution may be found through liaison with Fáilte Ireland and the Ireland's Ancient East Initiative.</p> <p>5. This situation is currently being discussed with DAHRRGA and Meath County Council.</p>
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Address line 1	Address line 2	Summary	Actions/Comments
Newgrange	Co. Meath	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The project is a partnership with the local community.</li> <li>2. Tourists are being misdirected by Sat-Nav, and there are the signage issues.</li> <li>3. Failure to accommodate the community diminishes the OUV.</li> <li>4. No independent appraisal of 2002 Plan. Their view is that the 2002 Plan was a failure, which has restricted natural growth and development of the community.</li> <li>5. Other developments have secured planning permission after a refusal as they have financial resources to mount a successful appeal. No businesses that derive economic benefit from tourist traffic north of the Boyne as a result of the Plan. population has been artificially aged as young people are forced to move away. Chimneys at Platin and M1 bridge are symbols of economic growth.</li> <li>6. Focus on the megalithic. Draft plan does not accommodate new development. The new Plan restricts the socio-economic development. The community does not depend solely on agriculture as it is within the Dublin commuter belt.</li> <li>7. Pre-planning process has been reneged upon.</li> <li>8. No survey on the impact of the Plan on the wider community.  No baseline established against which the effectiveness of the Plan can be measured.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agreed.</li> <li>2. Apparently some Sat-Nav systems direct you to the Visitor Centre rather than to Newgrange. Mentions emergency services being misdirected.</li> <li>3. Agreed, however proper planning and protection of archaeological material have to form part of the process.</li> <li>4. Mentions the decline of Slane, the demise of a craft shop and two B&amp;B's, no benefit from the Celtic Tiger years. Notes growth in Tullyallen village in comparison to Slane. Meath County Council is involved in a study comparing the WHS with other areas in County Meath this will be analysed and will be presented to the Community Forum.</li> <li>5. Refers to Cement works at Platin and other works which have impinged on the skyline. See Reactive monitoring mission report 2004. (Action?). New builds referred to are discouraged under the Meath County Development Plan and the same restrictions apply as in other rural areas.</li> <li>6. Noted</li> <li>7. Untrue, (see above).</li> <li>8. Annual reporting is instituted in this plan and local community groups will be involved.</li> </ol>



		<p>9. Derelict tourist office should be scrapped. Criticism of state of Knowth House. Says Plan does not accommodate new development, restoration, extension and change of use of existing buildings.</p> <p>10. Says Plan hastily concocted to avoid the embarrassment of being removed from the World Heritage List.</p>	<p>9. This is used as shelter by the guides at Newgrange; can be discussed with Site Manager. On re-use of buildings see local authority initiative. Knowth House is to be upgraded to a visitor facility.</p> <p>10. Noted.</p>
Rossin	Co. Meath	<p>1. Planning restrictions forcing young families to leave the area. Believes that there is a strategy to depopulate the area.</p> <p>2. Road signage is confusing.</p>	<p>1. No such strategy exists. One off housing is discouraged everywhere in rural Meath, as is the requirement to be able to demonstrate a need in the case of agriculturally zoned land.</p> <p>2. See Above</p>
ICOMOS	Ireland	<p>1. ICOMOS Ireland sent a very comprehensive reply with many queries and suggestions.</p> <p>2. Wanted Landscape Characterisation included and more emphasis on Landscape throughout the Plan.</p> <p>3. Wanted the Adrian Phillips model from MCWH applied to the Management Plan.</p>	<p>1. Noted with thanks.</p> <p>2. More basic work needed at the moment, but can be discussed as part of the full review half way through the Plan.</p> <p>3. This will be discussed with the Community Forum when it is set up. Their view on how the property is to be managed will inform us on how to proceed.</p>

Address line 1	Address line 2	Summary	Actions/Comments
Monknewtown	Co. Meath	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No response to initial submissions for three years.</li> <li>2. Community groups voiced concerns with the Plan and how the area was being managed.</li> <li>3. DAHRRGA has the power to veto planning applications but claims Meath County Council has that responsibility.</li> <li>4. No transparent guidelines around DAHRRGA planning assessment.</li> <li>5. 66% reduction in school numbers since 1979. Slane GFC can no longer field juvenile teams.</li> <li>6. A separate planning process is required for the community with defined guidelines.</li> <li>7. No campsites or B&amp;Bs as there are in Carnac in southern Brittany. Socio-economic study of the impact of the plan required.</li> <li>8. The BVCC recommended that pull in points and safe turning points are provided for buses, car parking for workers at Newgrange. Rain cover should be provided at the tumulus, and the old tourist centre rejuvenated, toilet facilities should be provided.</li> <li>9. Information should be provided to tourists to encourage them to spend money locally.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. This is true and has been apologised for on many occasions.</li> <li>2. We have had two public and five private meetings with local representatives and they will be shown the final plan before it is submitted to UNESCO.</li> <li>3. Incorrect. DAHRRGA is a consultee but if ignored has to either go to Bord Pleanála or invoke the provisions of the National Monuments Acts.</li> <li>4. There is a booklet entitled Archaeology and the Planning Process.</li> <li>5. Rural depopulation is endemic in rural Ireland at the moment. An economic study is being commissioned on this issue by Meath County Council.</li> <li>6. This is an issue for central government and is unlikely to be a runner.</li> <li>7. See response to number 5.</li> <li>8. This is an issue for the County Development Plan though we are happy to discuss it. Some of these issues have been resolved but no large roofed structure would be permitted in the vicinity of Newgrange. It is probable that we would object to any large-scale road widening in the WHS.</li> <li>9. While we co-operate with Fáilte Ireland, we have no mandate in relation to general tourism initiatives.</li> </ol>

		<p>10. Funding should be provided to ensure houses are presented as the heritage plan suggests.</p> <p>11. Slane GFC pre-planning meeting was a step in the right direction.</p>	<p>10. See local authority initiative on derelict sites.</p> <p>11. This is now enshrined in both Meath County Council's procedures and is mandatory under the new Management Plan.</p>
<p>Newgrange</p>	<p>Co. Meath</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Confusing and unsafe road signage.</li> <li>2. Another car park on the north side of the Boyne is needed.</li> <li>3. Roads are too narrow.</li> <li>4. Restrictions to local economy to protect WHS.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No such strategy exists. One off housing is discouraged everywhere in rural Meath, as is the requirement to be able to demonstrate a need in the case of agriculturally zoned land.</li> <li>2. See Above</li> </ol>
<p>Beamore</p>	<p>Co Louth</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Noted with thanks.</li> <li>2. More basic work needed at the moment, but can be discussed as part of the full review half way through the Plan.</li> <li>3. This will be discussed with the Community Forum when it is set up. Their view on how the property is to be managed will inform us on how to proceed.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Noted with thanks.</li> <li>2. More basic work needed at the moment, but can be discussed as part of the full review half way through the Plan.</li> <li>3. This will be discussed with the Community Forum when it is set up. Their view on how the property is to be managed will inform us on how to proceed.</li> </ol>

Address line 1	Address line 2	Summary	Actions/Comments
Greenanstown	Co. Meath	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Publish planning applications.</li> <li>2. Standards of planning are far beyond the means of ordinary people.</li> <li>3. General feeling that the building standards required within the WHS would be too big an investment for local people.</li> <li>4. Not enough local economic benefit. Tourism strategy required.</li> <li>5. Managing tours is too restrictive.</li> <li>6. A possible investment into Knowth House to make it a centre for display of megalithic art.</li> <li>7. Travel journalists have commented that their visit was dominated by anxiety over the return time to the bus.</li> <li>8. Facilities such as cycle routes, re-opening of the towpath and walkways are also required.</li> <li>9. A manager is required, based in the WHS, to liaise with State bodies and stakeholders.</li> <li>10. Signage needs upgrading.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The publication of planning applications is a matter for the Local Authority and they are available on their website.</li> <li>2/3. The requirements for renovations or new builds are the same as for any other area of rural Meath/Louth.</li> <li>4. There is a willingness to liaise with Fáilte Ireland and local stakeholders in the plan.</li> <li>5. Management of tours is required to preserve the OUV of Newgrange and Knowth in particular. Self guided tours of other monuments in the WHS could be envisaged.</li> <li>6. This is an objective in the Plan.</li> <li>7. Noted.</li> <li>8. Towpath issue is an objective of the Plan. Cycle routes are being looked into but no agreement yet.</li> <li>9. Manager appointed; need for management of non-State owned properties noted.</li> <li>10. Signage is an objective in the Plan.</li> </ol>
Portlaoise	Co. Laois	No observation at this time	

<p>Ballylusk</p>	<p>Co. Cork</p>	<p>Author of 'Newgrange-temple of life'. The Brú is a fertility temple rather than a burial site.</p>	<p>Noted. Can be shown to the Expert Advisory Committee.</p>
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## Appendix 4 Brú na Bóinne National Monuments

### Buffer Zone

Monument	Description	ITM_E	ITM_N	Townland
ME020-025001-	Battlefield	704480	775970	ARDAGH, GLEBE (Slane Upper By.), OLDBRIDGE, RATHMULLAN, SHEEPHOUSE
ME019-101----	Enclosure	698546	773471	CREWBANE
ME020-074----	Enclosure	704695	772650	CRUICERATH
ME027-002----	Enclosure	704435	771640	CRUICERATH
ME019-064----	Architectural fragment	701801	774477	DOWTH
ME019-117----	Linear earthwork	702049	774061	DOWTH
ME020-073----	Mound	702428	774692	DOWTH
ME026-022----	Enclosure	700171	771456	GILLTOWN
LH023-005----	Enclosure	701519	775159	LITTLE GRANGE
LH023-006----	Enclosure	701610	775196	LITTLE GRANGE
ME019-019006-	Armorial plaque	701021	775241	MONKNEWTOWN
ME019-016003-	Barrow - ditch barrow	700648	775505	MONKNEWTOWN
ME019-017----	Barrow - mound barrow	700832	775438	MONKNEWTOWN
ME019-019----	Church	701014	775241	MONKNEWTOWN
ME019-019005-	Cross	701021	775241	MONKNEWTOWN
ME019-019004-	Cross - Churchyard cross	701025	775234	MONKNEWTOWN
ME019-016001-	Embanked enclosure	700658	775519	MONKNEWTOWN
ME019-097----	Enclosure	700543	775179	MONKNEWTOWN
ME019-114----	Field system	700649	775634	MONKNEWTOWN
ME019-019003-	Font	701021	775241	MONKNEWTOWN
ME019-018----	Font (present location)	700977	775299	MONKNEWTOWN
ME019-018001-	Font (present location)	700969	775300	MONKNEWTOWN
ME019-019001-	Graveyard	701021	775227	MONKNEWTOWN
ME019-016002-	Hut site	700640	775498	MONKNEWTOWN
ME019-016004-	Pit-burial	700677	775534	MONKNEWTOWN
ME019-112----	Ring-ditch	700488	775522	MONKNEWTOWN
ME019-113----	Ring-ditch	700501	775636	MONKNEWTOWN
ME019-115----	Ring-ditch	700871	775488	MONKNEWTOWN

Monument	Description	ITM_E	ITM_N	Townland
ME019-019002-	Ritual site - holy well	701084	775179	MONKNEWTOWN
ME019-015----	Ritual site - pond	700366	775222	MONKNEWTOWN
ME019-116----	Road - road/trackway	700550	775498	MONKNEWTOWN
ME026-005003-	Ford	699793	771924	NEWGRANGE, ROSSNAREE
ME019-068003-	Weir - fish	699409	772218	NEWGRANGE, ROSSNAREE
ME020-025014-	Barrow - ring-barrow	704042	775649	OLDBRIDGE
ME020-025015-	Barrow - ring-barrow	704353	775314	OLDBRIDGE
ME020-025016-	Barrow - ring-barrow	704353	775345	OLDBRIDGE
ME020-025017-	Barrow - ring-barrow	704378	775323	OLDBRIDGE
ME020-025004-	Burial	704624	775970	OLDBRIDGE
ME020-002----	Cist	703880	775862	OLDBRIDGE
ME020-025010-	Cultivation ridges	704401	776009	OLDBRIDGE
ME020-003----	Enclosure	704683	775668	OLDBRIDGE
ME020-025011-	Field system	704615	775899	OLDBRIDGE
ME020-025012-	Field system	704748	775952	OLDBRIDGE
ME020-025018-	Field system	704215	775325	OLDBRIDGE
ME020-025019-	Prehistoric site - lithic scatter	704831	774998	OLDBRIDGE
ME020-025020-	Prehistoric site - lithic scatter	704528	775098	OLDBRIDGE
ME020-025021-	Prehistoric site - lithic scatter	704316	775014	OLDBRIDGE
ME020-025022-	Prehistoric site - lithic scatter	704482	775504	OLDBRIDGE
ME020-025023-	Prehistoric site - lithic scatter	705444	775027	OLDBRIDGE
ME020-025002-	Ring-ditch	704206	775580	OLDBRIDGE
ME020-025003-	Ring-ditch	705037	775165	OLDBRIDGE
ME020-025005-	Road - road/trackway	704624	775970	OLDBRIDGE
ME020-025013-	Settlement cluster	704342	776150	OLDBRIDGE
ME020-004----	Souterrain	705228	775337	OLDBRIDGE
ME020-007----	Souterrain	704293	774836	OLDBRIDGE
ME020-079----	Souterrain	704353	774465	OLDBRIDGE
ME020-004001-	Standing stone	705284	775293	OLDBRIDGE
ME020-030----	Standing stone	705176	775151	OLDBRIDGE
ME020-024002-	Weir - fish	703817	775750	OLDBRIDGE, PROUDFOOTSTOWN

Monument	Description	ITM_E	ITM_N	Townland
MEo20-052----	Excavation - miscellaneous	706634	773696	RATHMULLAN
MEo20-058----	Excavation - miscellaneous	706663	773655	RATHMULLAN
MEo20-060----	Excavation - miscellaneous	706338	774072	RATHMULLAN
MEo20-061----	Excavation - miscellaneous	706653	773705	RATHMULLAN
MEo20-021----	Ringfort - rath	706556	773677	RATHMULLAN
MEo19-059----	Barrow - mound barrow	699180	772558	ROSSNAREE
MEo19-080----	Enclosure	699157	773149	ROSSNAREE
MEo26-005002-	Mill - unclassified	699715	771909	ROSSNAREE
MEo26-005001-	Sheela-na-gig	699709	771906	ROSSNAREE
MEo19-048----	Souterrain	699192	772228	ROSSNAREE
MEo19-068002-	Weir - fish	699310	772558	ROSSNAREE
MEo27-104----	Cross	702433	771007	ROUGHGRANGE
MEo27-080----	Enclosure	702303	771823	ROUGHGRANGE
MEo27-077----	Mound	702630	771575	ROUGHGRANGE
MEo19-054----	Sheela-na-gig	701931	772534	ROUGHGRANGE
MEo26-021003-	Ford	701206	771918	ROUGHGRANGE, NEWGRANGE
MEo20-011----	Church	705495	774070	SHEEPHOUSE
MEo20-011003-	Cross	705495	774070	SHEEPHOUSE
MEo20-008----	Enclosure	705848	774634	SHEEPHOUSE
MEo20-029001-	Fulacht fia	704498	773340	SHEEPHOUSE
MEo20-029002-	Fulacht fia	704450	773218	SHEEPHOUSE
MEo20-029003-	Fulacht fia	704523	773234	SHEEPHOUSE
MEo20-011002-	Graveslab	705495	774070	SHEEPHOUSE
MEo20-011001-	Graveyard	705495	774070	SHEEPHOUSE
MEo20-069----	House - 16th/17th century	704826	774621	SHEEPHOUSE
MEo27-068001-	Barrow - embanked barrow	703309	771670	STALLEEN
MEo27-068002-	Barrow - mound barrow	703358	771684	STALLEEN
MEo27-068003-	Barrow - mound barrow	703229	771615	STALLEEN
MEo27-001----	Burial	703917	771916	STALLEEN
MEo20-070----	Enclosure	703812	773360	STALLEEN
MEo20-067001-	Gatehouse	703332	773122	STALLEEN
MEo20-027----	House - 17th century	702707	773150	STALLEEN
MEo20-067004-	Kiln - corn-drying	703302	773139	STALLEEN



Monument	Description	ITM_E	ITM_N	Townland
MEo20-028003-	Mill - unclassified	702568	773039	STALLEEN
MEo20-077----	Prehistoric site - lithic scatter	704050	773207	STALLEEN
MEo20-067003-	Ringfort - rath	703335	773140	STALLEEN
MEo20-067002-	Souterrain	703302	773139	STALLEEN
LHo24-008001-	Habitation site	702220	775725	TOWNLEYHALL
LHo24-008002-	Megalithic tomb - passage tomb	702220	775725	TOWNLEYHALL

## Core Area

Monument	Description	ITM_E	ITM_N	Townland
Monument	Description	ITM_E	ITM_N	Townland
MEo19-040----	Barrow - mound barrow	701956	773284	DOWTH
MEo19-042----	Barrow - mound barrow	702100	773340	DOWTH
MEo19-043----	Barrow - mound barrow	701353	773024	DOWTH
MEo20-012----	Barrow - mound barrow	702940	773983	DOWTH
MEo20-018----	Castle - tower house	702550	773805	DOWTH
MEo20-019----	Church	702509	773768	DOWTH
MEo19-103----	Embanked enclosure	701580	772664	DOWTH
MEo20-010----	Embanked enclosure	703350	774200	DOWTH
MEo20-075----	Enclosure	703174	773554	DOWTH
MEo20-016001-	Field system	702360	773860	DOWTH
MEo20-019003-	Font	702509	773768	DOWTH
MEo20-019004-	Graveslab	702495	773768	DOWTH
MEo20-019001-	Graveyard	702495	773768	DOWTH
MEo20-013----	Megalithic tomb - passage tomb	702948	773932	DOWTH
MEo20-017----	Megalithic tomb - passage tomb	702305	773798	DOWTH
MEo19-041----	Mound	701999	773314	DOWTH
MEo19-052----	Mound	701557	772772	DOWTH
MEo20-015----	Mound	702612	773942	DOWTH
MEo20-020----	Mound	702267	773448	DOWTH
MEo20-023----	Mound	703328	773551	DOWTH

Monument	Description	ITM_E	ITM_N	Townland
MEo20-080----	Passage tomb art	702856	774037	DOWTH
MEo20-016003-	Ritual site - holy well	702446	773698	DOWTH
MEo20-019002-	Sheela-na-gig	702509	773768	DOWTH
MEo20-064----	Sheela-na-gig	702509	773768	DOWTH
MEo20-017001-	Souterrain	702275	773804	DOWTH
MEo19-053----	Standing stone	701593	772601	DOWTH
MEo20-009----	Stone circle	703476	774463	DOWTH
MEo20-028001-	Weir - fish	702528	773008	DOWTH, STALLEEN
MEo20-028002-	Weir - fish	702479	772888	DOWTH, STALLEEN
MEo19-099----	Barrow - unclassified	699453	773229	KNOWTH
MEo19-030061-	Burial	699590	773435	KNOWTH
MEo19-028----	Burial ground	699837	773861	KNOWTH
MEo19-030039-	Burnt spread	699603	773398	KNOWTH
MEo19-030066-	Church	699614	773448	KNOWTH
MEo19-030021-	Enclosure	699559	773464	KNOWTH
MEo19-030040-	Enclosure	699617	773455	KNOWTH
MEo19-073----	Enclosure	699725	773833	KNOWTH
MEo19-075----	Enclosure	699895	773958	KNOWTH
MEo19-077----	Enclosure	700044	773859	KNOWTH
MEo19-093----	Enclosure	699766	773287	KNOWTH
MEo19-104----	Enclosure	699712	773395	KNOWTH
MEo19-105----	Enclosure	699758	773397	KNOWTH
MEo19-030034-	Excavation - miscellaneous	699614	773487	KNOWTH
MEo19-030035-	Excavation - miscellaneous	699664	773449	KNOWTH
MEo19-030036-	Excavation - miscellaneous	699644	773415	KNOWTH
MEo19-030037-	Excavation - miscellaneous	699639	773410	KNOWTH
MEo19-030038-	Excavation - miscellaneous	699606	773396	KNOWTH
MEo19-027----	Field system	699859	773892	KNOWTH
MEo19-030041-	House - early medieval	699580	773426	KNOWTH
MEo19-030042-	House - early medieval	699585	773471	KNOWTH
MEo19-030043-	House - early medieval	699581	773422	KNOWTH
MEo19-030044-	House - early medieval	699574	773443	KNOWTH
MEo19-030045-	House - early medieval	699653	773451	KNOWTH
MEo19-030046-	House - early medieval	699651	773454	KNOWTH

Monument	Description	ITM_E	ITM_N	Townland
ME019-030047-	House - early medieval	699651	773446	KNOWTH
ME019-030048-	House - early medieval	699652	773447	KNOWTH
ME019-030049-	House - early medieval	699652	773445	KNOWTH
ME019-030050-	House - early medieval	699649	773445	KNOWTH
ME019-030071-	House - early medieval	699641	773452	KNOWTH
ME019-030072-	House - early medieval	699634	773465	KNOWTH
ME019-030073-	House - early medieval	699624	773434	KNOWTH
ME019-030074-	House - early medieval	699611	773426	KNOWTH
ME019-030075-	House - early medieval	699650	773486	KNOWTH
ME019-030062-	House - medieval	699614	773448	KNOWTH
ME019-030019-	House - Neolithic	699562	773457	KNOWTH
ME019-030020-	House - Neolithic	699659	773448	KNOWTH
ME019-030022-	House - Neolithic	699565	773462	KNOWTH
ME019-030023-	House - Neolithic	699633	773493	KNOWTH
ME019-030024-	House - Neolithic	699636	773491	KNOWTH
ME019-030025-	House - Neolithic	699634	773481	KNOWTH
ME019-030026-	House - Neolithic	699650	773487	KNOWTH
ME019-030027-	House - Neolithic	699649	773485	KNOWTH
ME019-030028-	House - Neolithic	699656	773463	KNOWTH
ME019-030029-	House - Neolithic	699656	773464	KNOWTH
ME019-030030-	House - Neolithic	699655	773463	KNOWTH
ME019-030031-	House - Neolithic	699657	773442	KNOWTH
ME019-030032-	House - Neolithic	699658	773439	KNOWTH
ME019-087----	Industrial site	699828	773852	KNOWTH
ME019-106----	Kiln	699767	773399	KNOWTH
ME019-030067-	Kiln - corn-drying	699665	773477	KNOWTH
ME019-030068-	Kiln - corn-drying	699664	773484	KNOWTH
ME019-030069-	Kiln - corn-drying	699574	773498	KNOWTH
ME019-030070-	Kiln - corn-drying	699574	773498	KNOWTH
ME019-030001-	Megalithic tomb - passage tomb	699613	773448	KNOWTH
ME019-030002-	Megalithic tomb - passage tomb	699633	773389	KNOWTH
ME019-030003-	Megalithic tomb - passage tomb	699616	773396	KNOWTH
ME019-030004-	Megalithic tomb - passage tomb	699575	773386	KNOWTH
ME019-030005-	Megalithic tomb - passage tomb	699554	773408	KNOWTH

Monument	Description	ITM_E	ITM_N	Townland
ME019-030006-	Megalithic tomb - passage tomb	699555	773431	KNOWTH
ME019-030007-	Megalithic tomb - passage tomb	699450	773418	KNOWTH
ME019-030008-	Megalithic tomb - passage tomb	699562	773452	KNOWTH
ME019-030009-	Megalithic tomb - passage tomb	699544	773464	KNOWTH
ME019-030010-	Megalithic tomb - passage tomb	699554	773478	KNOWTH
ME019-030011-	Megalithic tomb - passage tomb	699561	773491	KNOWTH
ME019-030012-	Megalithic tomb - passage tomb	699570	773503	KNOWTH
ME019-030013-	Megalithic tomb - passage tomb	699606	773498	KNOWTH
ME019-030014-	Megalithic tomb - passage tomb	699620	773500	KNOWTH
ME019-030015-	Megalithic tomb - passage tomb	699642	773499	KNOWTH
ME019-030016-	Megalithic tomb - passage tomb	699643	773479	KNOWTH
ME019-030017-	Megalithic tomb - passage tomb	699658	773471	KNOWTH
ME019-030018-	Megalithic tomb - passage tomb	699667	773464	KNOWTH
ME019-030076-	Megalithic tomb - passage tomb	699677	773423	KNOWTH
ME019-030077-	Megalithic tomb - passage tomb	699592	773378	KNOWTH
ME019-030078-	Megalithic tomb - passage tomb	699714	773493	KNOWTH
ME019-074----	Mound	699703	773788	KNOWTH
ME019-030065-	Passage tomb art	699677	773519	KNOWTH
ME019-030033-	Pit circle	699668	773447	KNOWTH
ME019-038----	Promontory fort - inland	699495	772928	KNOWTH
ME019-029----	Ring-ditch	699910	773970	KNOWTH
ME019-030051-	Souterrain	699573	773463	KNOWTH
ME019-030052-	Souterrain	699623	773503	KNOWTH
ME019-030053-	Souterrain	699575	773435	KNOWTH
ME019-030054-	Souterrain	699617	773430	KNOWTH
ME019-030055-	Souterrain	699639	773496	KNOWTH
ME019-030056-	Souterrain	699628	773462	KNOWTH
ME019-030057-	Souterrain	699637	773456	KNOWTH
ME019-030058-	Souterrain	699646	773457	KNOWTH
ME019-030059-	Souterrain	699661	773453	KNOWTH
ME019-086----	Structure	699828	773852	KNOWTH
ME019-067001-	Architectural fragment	700669	772858	NEWGRANGE
ME019-049001-	Barrow - mound barrow	701057	772318	NEWGRANGE
ME019-051----	Barrow - mound barrow	701321	772771	NEWGRANGE

Monument	Description	ITM_E	ITM_N	Townland
ME019-058001-	Barrow - mound barrow	701490	772142	NEWGRANGE
ME019-045002-	Cairn - unclassified	700705	772724	NEWGRANGE
ME019-044001-	Cursus	700851	772777	NEWGRANGE
ME019-050----	Earthwork	701235	772463	NEWGRANGE
ME019-049002-	Embanked enclosure	701071	772328	NEWGRANGE
ME019-058002-	Embanked enclosure	701425	772173	NEWGRANGE
ME019-094----	Embanked enclosure	700233	772064	NEWGRANGE
ME026-006----	Embanked enclosure	700700	771975	NEWGRANGE
ME019-065----	Enclosure	699568	772644	NEWGRANGE
ME019-100----	Enclosure	700891	773497	NEWGRANGE
ME019-119----	Enclosure	700123	772612	NEWGRANGE
ME019-045004-	Habitation site	700713	772705	NEWGRANGE
ME019-045003-	Hut site	700694	772714	NEWGRANGE
ME019-067005-	Linear earthwork	701011	772472	NEWGRANGE
ME026-027----	Linear earthwork	700471	772014	NEWGRANGE
ME019-044003-	Megalithic tomb - passage tomb	700776	772737	NEWGRANGE
ME019-044004-	Megalithic tomb - passage tomb	700746	772744	NEWGRANGE
ME019-045----	Megalithic tomb - passage tomb	700676	772749	NEWGRANGE
ME019-046001-	Megalithic tomb - passage tomb	700544	772721	NEWGRANGE
ME019-046003-	Megalithic tomb - passage tomb	700573	772724	NEWGRANGE
ME019-068004-	Mill - corn	699629	772074	NEWGRANGE
ME019-041001-	Passage tomb art (present location)	700752	772664	NEWGRANGE
ME019-044002-	Pit circle	700772	772706	NEWGRANGE
ME019-067002-	Ring-ditch	700459	772328	NEWGRANGE
ME019-078----	Ring-ditch	700808	772157	NEWGRANGE
ME019-039----	Ringfort - rath	700529	773102	NEWGRANGE
ME019-067003-	Ritual site - pond	700409	772178	NEWGRANGE
ME026-021002-	Ritual site - pond	700963	772058	NEWGRANGE
ME019-055----	Standing stone	701535	772535	NEWGRANGE
ME019-045005-	Stone circle	700676	772746	NEWGRANGE
ME020-024001-	Weir - fish	703794	775644	OLDBRIDGE, PROUDFOOTSTOWN
ME020-024003-	Weir - fish	703842	775541	OLDBRIDGE, PROUDFOOTSTOWN
ME020-001----	Castle - unclassified	703473	775081	PROUDFOOTSTOWN

# Appendix 5 Natural Heritage Designations

Type	Code	Name	Location	Source	DOCS	Features of Interest	Site code	DATE	AREA	DATE_	AREA_	CALC
Natural Heritage Area (Proposed)	001804	King William's Glen	Northern Buffer	NPWS								
Natural Heritage Area (Proposed)	001862	Boyne River Islands	Southern Buffer	NPWS								
Natural Heritage Area (Proposed)	001861	Dowth Wetlands	Core Area	NPWS								
Natural Heritage Area (Proposed)	000553	Crewbane Marsh	Core Area	NPWS								
Natural Heritage Area (Proposed)	001589	Rossharee Riverbank	Southern Buffer	NPWS								
Special Protected Areas	004232	River Boyne and River Blackwater	Core Area	NPWS	Y	Kingfisher ( <i>Alcedo atthis</i> ) [A229]						
Special Area of Conservation	002299	River Boyne and River Blackwater	Core Area	NPWS	Y	River lamprey ( <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> ) [1099]; Salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> ) [1106]; Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355]; Alkaline fens [7230]; Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> ) [91E0]	IE0002299	200306	River Boyne and River Blackwater		2320.86	25/09/11

# Appendix 6 Record of Protected Structures within WHS and Buffer Zone

## MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL AREA

ID	Structure Name	Street / Townland	Town	Building Type	Description	NIAH Reg No.
MH019-113	St Mary's Church of the Assumption	Monknewtown		Church (R. C.)	Small T-shaped church, 3 galleries, late 19th-century apse and reredos, round headed windows with square panes.	
MH019-117	Knowth House	Knowth		House	Detached four-bay, two-storey house c. 1800 with a single-storey extension, a hipped slated roof, projecting front porch and sash windows. 18th-century yard buildings	
MH019-115	Rossin Mill	Monknewtown		Mill	Seven-bay, four-storey flaxmill, c. 1850, with cutstone door and window surrounds, redbrick chimney, and four-storey gabled range.	14401901
MH020-100	Brú na Bóinne Visitors Centre	Stalleen	Donore	Visitors Centre	Detached multiple-bay, multiple-storey interpretative centre, c. 1997. Built on an irregular plan and constructed using a variety of materials including structural steel, reinforced concrete and the extensive use of plate glass.	14402015
MH020-101	Netterville monument	Dowth	Dowth	Monument	This is a monument to the 5th Viscount Netterville from c. 1800, a memorial to John Boyle O' Reilly.	
MH020-102	Netterville Graveyard	Dowth	Dowth	Netterville	Graveyard, with stone grave markers from c. 1725. Rubble Graveyard stone boundary walls with cast-iron double gates and turnstile. Remains of medieval church and medieval grave markers to the site.	14402008
MH020-103	Dowth Church	Dowth	Dowth	Church	Detached stone church remodeled, c. 1860, comprising three-bay side elevations to the nave, with single-bay porch to south-gable. Dressed stone walls, with decorative recessed panels. Pointed arch openings.	14402007
MH020-104	Netterville Charity	Dowth	Dowth	House /former	Detached seven-bay, two-storey former almshouse, built almshouse c. 1877 by Lord Fingal, designed by George Coppinger Ashlin. Medieval tower house to site. Ashlar limestone piers with cast-iron double gates.	14402006
MH020-105	Stalleen thatch 1	Stalleen	Donore	Thatched house	Five-bay, single-storey house with windbreak porch, thatched roof of oaten straw, painted cement rendered walls, aluminium windows, farmyard and stone outbuildings.	

ID	Structure Name	Street / Townland	Town	Building Type	Description	NIAH Reg No.
MH020-106	Dowth Hall, pump	Dowth	Dowth	Pump	Cast-iron pump, c. 1960, comprising cast-iron base with formerly glazed upper section retaining original internal machinery.	14402011
MH020-107	Dowth Hall	Dowth	Dowth	Country house	Detached five-bay, two-storey over basement country house, built c. 1730. Conservatory, c. 1900, attached to south elevation. Outbuildings to north elevation. Includes stables and gate lodge.	14402009
MH020-108	Stalleen Cottage	Stalleen	Donore	Thatched house	Detached single-storey, three-bay former small farmer's cottage, built c. 1800. Rendered mud or compacted earth walls. Hipped corrugated metal sheet roof with rendered chimneystack located towards centre of roof.	14402013
MH020-109	Oldbridge House	Oldbridge	Sheephouse	Country house	Detached seven-bay, three-storey house, built c. 1750, enlarged c. 1810. Reputed to have been designed by George Darley. The 1832 alterations were carried out by Frederick Darley. Includes outbuildings, entrance gates and the octagonal garden.	14402016
MH020-110	Pillbox	Oldbridge	Donore	Pillbox	Reinforced concrete pillbox, built c. 1940. Located in a defensive position overlooking the River Boyne. Built on a trapezoidal plan (c. 3 m in width and 1.8 m high) with two horizontal gun placements, one to the north and one to the south.	14402014
MH020-111	Obelisk Bridge	Oldbridge	Oldbridge	Bridge (road)	Single-span road bridge over river, built c. 1869, comprising two wrought-iron double latticed girders with ashlar limestone terminating piers.	14402005
MH020-112	Detached house	Stalleen	Donore	House	Detached four-bay, two-storey house, built c. 1880, with (detached) gabled porch. Hipped slate roof with render brick chimneystacks. Rubble limestone walls with dressed stone quoins having red walls to porch.	14402001
MH020-113	Donore parochial house	Cruicerath	Donore	Parochial house	Detached three-bay, two-storey parochial house, built c. 1840, with gabled bay and gablet. Pitched slate roofs with red brick chimneystacks. Square limestone walls with carved limestone plaque.	14402003



ID	Structure Name	Street / Townland	Town	Building Type	Description	NIAH Reg No.
MH020-114	Saint Mary's Roman Catholic Church	Cruicerath	Donore	Church (R.C.)	Detached gable-fronted church, built c. 1840, flanked by recessed bays. Four-bay side elevations to the nave. Ashlar limestone gate piers surmounted by cast-iron finials, with pair of cast-iron gates. Former school to site.	14402002
MH020-115	Gate lodge	Oldbridge	Sheephouse	Gate lodge	Detached two-storey gate lodge, slate roof with ornate bargeboards, rubble walls with stone arched hoodmouldings, to first floor windows, and flat hood mouldings to ground floor windows. Projecting porch with hipped roof and decorative slate courses.	
MH020-116	Cottage	Oldbridge	Sheephouse	Estate cottage	Terrace of five former estate workers houses, of three-bays, two-storeys, slated pitched roof, random rubble walls with brick surrounds to opes.	
MH020-117	Cottage	Oldbridge	Sheephouse	Estate cottage	Terrace of five former estate workers houses, of three-bays, two-storeys, slated pitched roof, random rubble walls with brick surrounds to opes.	
MH020-118	Cottage	Oldbridge	Sheephouse	Estate cottage	Terrace of five former estate workers houses, of three-bays, two-storeys, slated pitched roof, random rubble walls with brick surrounds to opes.	
MH020-119	Cottage	Oldbridge	Sheephouse	Estate cottage	Terrace of five former estate workers houses, of three-bays, two-storeys, slated pitched roof, random rubble walls with brick surrounds to opes.	
MH020-120	Cottage	Oldbridge	Sheephouse	Estate cottage	Terrace of five former estate workers houses, of three-bays, two-storeys, slated pitched roof, random rubble walls with brick surrounds to opes.	
MH020-121	Boyne Valley cottage	Donore	Donore	Thatched house	Detached six-bay, single-storey house, built c. 1800, with projecting porch and two-bays in use as outbuilding. Hipped thatched roof with red brick chimneystack. Rendered walls. Timber sash windows. Rethatched 2004.	14402004
MH020-122	Donore thatch	Donore	Donore	Thatched house	Five-bay, two-storey house with gabled porch, thatched roof of oaten straw and three brick chimneystacks, cement ended walls, sash windows.	

ID	Structure Name	Street / Townland	Town	Building Type	Description	NIAH Reg No.
MH026-110	Rosnaree Roman Catholic Church	Rosnaree	Rosnaree	Church (R. C.)	Detached church, built c. 1820. Pitched slate roof with stone cross to entrance gable. Plaster groin vaulted ceiling internally.	
MH026-111	Gilltown farmhouse	Gilltown	Beauparc	Farmhouse	Two-storey farmhouse, colour washed, with wall and yew trees. Refurbished 2005.	
MH026-112	Rosnaree Mill	Rosnaree	Rosnaree	Mill	Detached gable-fronted two-bay, three-storey former mill, built c. 1820. Now used as house. Remains of mill wheel and mill race to the north-east elevation.	

### LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL AREA

ID	Map Sheet	Address	Name	Description	Notes	NIAH Reg No.
LHS024-007	24	Little Grange	Two-storey	House house	Detached two-storey house, built c. 1860. Pitched slate roof with rendered chimneystack. Rendered walls with limestone quoins and string course. Timber sliding sash windows.	13902413
LHS024-006	24	Townleyhall	Obelisk Bridge	Road bridge	Single-span iron girder road bridge over River Boyne, built 1868, on rock-faced limestone piers. Suspended repair gantry to underside.	13902410
LHS024-001h	24	Townleyhall	Townley Hall Gateway	Gates/railings	Gateway, built c. 1810.	13902411
LHS024-001f	24	Townley Hall	Townley Hall -	Gate lodge Boyne Lodge	Detached three-bay, single-storey stone gate lodge, built c. 1820. Tetrastyle pedimented portico to north on Greek Doric columns.	13902412
LHS024-001g	24	Townley Hall	Passage Grave	Passage Grave		

# Appendix 7 Meath Industrial Heritage Survey

MIHS Ref	Site Name	Site No.	Site Type	6" Sheet No.	County	Townland	Barony	RMP Ref. No.	RPS Ref. No.	NIAH Ref. No.
016-024	OLD EEL WEIR	024	WEIR (EEL)	019	MEATH	COMMONS OF LLOYD;	UPPER KELLS MOUNTAINPOLE OR ROCHFORTSLAND			
019-024	TAYLOR'S LANE BRIDGE	024	BRIDGE	019	MEATH	MONKNEWTOWN	UPPER SLANE	MH019-115		14401901
019-02501	ROSSIN CORN MILL	02501	MILL (CORN)	019	MEATH	MONKNEWTOWN	UPPER SLANE	MH019-115		14401901
019-02502	ROSSIN MILL	02502	MILL (FLAX)	019	MEATH	MONKNEWTOWN	UPPER SLANE			
019-026	MATTOCK BRIDGE	026	BRIDGE	019	MEATH	BALFEDDOCK; MONKNEWTOWN	UPPER SLANE			
019-02901	BOYNE NAVIGATION CANAL (LOWER)	02901	CANAL	019	MEATH	FENNOR; ROSSNAREE	LOWER DULEEK			
019-02902	CANAL LOCK	02902	CANAL LOCK	019	MEATH	FENNOR	LOWER DULEEK			
019-02903	CANAL LOCK	02903	CANAL LOCK	019	MEATH	ROSSNAREE	LOWER DULEEK			
019-02904	LOCK HOUSE	02904	LOCK-KEEPER'S COTTAGE	019	MEATH	ROSSNAREE	LOWER DULEEK			
019-02905	FISH WEIR	02905	WEIR (FISH)	019	MEATH	FENNOR; SLANE	LOWER DULEEK; UPPER SLANE			
019-02906	WEIR	02906	WEIR (FISH)	019	MEATH	CREWBANE; FENNOR	LOWER DULEEK; UPPER SLANE			
019-03001	BOYNE NAVIGATION CANAL (LOWER)	03001	CANAL	019	MEATH	NEWGRANGE	UPPER SLANE			
019-03002	MILL	03002	MILL (UNIDENTIFIED)	019	MEATH	NEWGRANGE	UPPER SLANE	ME019-06804		
019-03003	BOYNE NAVIGATION CANAL	03003	WEIR (CANAL AND FISH)	019	MEATH	NEWGRANGE; ROSSNAREE	LOWER DULEEK; UPPER SLANE	ME019-06801		
019-03004	WEIR	03004	WEIR (FISH)	019	MEATH	ROSSNAREE	LOWER DULEEK	ME019-06802		
019-03005	WEIR	03005	WEIR (FISH AND MILL)	019	MEATH	NEWGRANGE; ROSSNAREE	LOWER DULEEK; UPPER SLANE	ME019-06803		

MIHS Ref	Site Name	Site No.	Site Type	6" Sheet No.	County	Townland	Barony	RMP Ref. No.	RPS Ref. No.	NIAH Ref. No.
019-03006	Canal Lock	03006	Canal Lock	019	Meath	Newgrange	Upper Slane			
019-03101	Boyne Navigation Canal (Lower)	03101	Canal	019	Meath	Roughgrange	Lower Duleek			
019-03102	Corn Mill	03102	Mill (Corn)	019	Meath	Roughgrange	Lower Duleek	ME019-06602		
019-03103	Fish Weir	03103	Weir(Fish and Mill)	019	Meath	Newgrange; Roughgrange	Lower Duleek; Upper Slane	ME019-067006		
019-03104	Fish Weir	03104	Weir (Fish and Mill)	019	Meath	Dowth; Roughgrange	Lower Duleek; Upper Slane	ME019-066001		
019-03105	Fish Weir	03105	Weir (Fish)	019	Meath	Dowth; Newgrange	Upper Slane			
019-032	Millrace of Dowth Corn Mill	032	Mill (Corn)	019	Meath	Dowth	Upper Slane			
019-037	Smithy	037	Smithy	019	Meath	Monknewtown	Upper Slane			
019-03801	Smithy	03801	Smithy	019	Meath	Rossnaree	Lower Duleek			
019-03802	Smithy	03802	Smithy	019	Meath	Rossnaree	Lower Duleek			
019-039	Smithy	039	Smithy	019	Meath	Dowth	Upper Slane			
019-040	Pumping Station	040	Pumping Str.	019	Meath	Roughgrange	Lower Duleek			
020-001	Dowth Corn Mill	001	Mill (Corn)	020	Meath	Dowth	Upper Slane			
020-002	Proudfootstown Corn Mill	002	Mill (Corn)	020	Meath	Proudfootstown	Upper Slane			
020-003	New Bridge	003	Bridge	020	Meath	Proudfootstown	Upper Slane			
020-00401	Boyne Navigation Canal (Lower)	00401	Canal	020	Meath	Oldbridge	Lower Duleek			
020-00402	Weir	00402	Weir	020	Meath	Oldbridge; Proudfootstown	Lower Duleek; Upper Slane			
020-00403	Fish Weir	00403	Weir (Fish)	020	Meath	Oldbridge	Lower Duleek	ME020-024002		

MIHS Ref	Site Name	Site No.	Site Type	6" Sheet No.	County	Townland	Barony	RMP Ref. No.	RPS Ref. No.	NIAH Ref. No.
020-00404	Lock	00404	Canal Lock	020	Meath	Oldbridge	Lower Duleek			
020-00405	Lock House	00405	Lock-keeper's Cottage	020	Meath	Oldbridge	Lower Duleek			
020-00406	Lock	00406	Canal Lock	020	Meath	Oldbridge	Lower Duleek			
020-00407	Fish Weir	00407	Weir (Fish)	020	Meath	Proudfootstown	Upper Slane			
020-005	Obelisk Bridge; the 'Iron Span'	005	Bridge	020	Meath	Oldbridge	Lower Duleek			14402005
020-006	Oldbridge Quarry	006	Quarry complex	020	Meath	Oldbridge	Lower Duleek			
020-00701	Smithy	00701	Smithy	020	Meath	Sheephouse	Lower Duleek			
020-00702	Weighing Machine	00702	Weighing Machine	020	Meath	Sheephouse	Lower Duleek			
020-008	Water Pump	008	Water Pump	020	Meath	Dowth	Upper Slane		MH020-106	14402011
020-00901	Boyne Navigation Canal (Lower)	00901	Canal	020	Meath	Roughgrange; Stalleen	Lower Duleek			
020-00902	Fish Weir	00902	Weir (Fish and Mill)	020	Meath	Dowth; Stalleen	Lower Duleek; Upper Slane			
020-00903	Corn Mill	00903	Mill (Corn and Flax)	020	Meath	Stalleen	Lower Duleek	ME020-028003		
020-00904	Mooring Posts	00904	Mooring Posts	020	Meath	Stalleen	Lower Duleek			
020-00905	Canal Lock	00905	Canal Lock	020	Meath	Stalleen	Lower Duleek			
020-00906	Lock Keeper's House	00906	Lock-keeper's Cottage	020	Meath	Stalleen	Lower Duleek			
020-01301	Direction Post	01301	Direction Post	020	Meath	Stermeen	Lower Duleek			
020-01302	Pier	01302	Pier	020	Meath	Stameen	Lower Duleek			
020-014	Weir	014	Weir	020	Meath	Stalleen	Lower Duleek			

MIHS Ref	Site Name	Site No.	Site Type	6" Sheet No.	County	Townland	Barony	RMP Ref. No.	RPS Ref. No.	NIAH Ref. No.
020-015	Weighing Machine	015	Weighing Machine	020	Meath	Dowth	Upper Slane			
020-016	Gasometer	016	Gasworks	020	Meath	Oldbridge	Lower Duleek			
020-017	Weighing Machine	017	Weighing Machine	020	Meath	Oldbridge	Lower Duleek			
020-018	Smithy	018	Smithy	020	Meath	Oldbridge; Sheephouse	Lower Duleek			
020-019	Smithy	019	Smithy	020	Meath	Stalleen	Lower Duleek			
026-012	Smithy	012	Smithy	026	Meath	Gilltown	Lower Duleek			
026-01301	Rossnaree Mill	01301	Mill (Corn)	026	Meath	Rossnaree	Lower Duleek	ME026-00502	MH026-112	14402606
026-01302	Weir	01302	Weir	026	Meath	Rossnaree	Lower Duleek	ME026-020		
026-01401	Boyne Navigation Canal (Lower)	01401	Canal	026	Meath	Newgrange	Upper Slane			
026-01402	40th Lock; Broe Lock	01402	Canal Lock	026	Meath	Newgrange	Upper Slane			
026-01403	Lock House	01403	Lock-keeper's Cottage	026	Meath	Newgrange	Upper Slane			
026-01501	Boyne Navigation Canal (Lower)	01501	Canal	026	Meath	Roughgrange	Lower Duleek			
026-01502	Boyne Navigation Canal Weir	01502	Weir (Canal and Fish)	026	Meath	Newgrange; Roughgrange	Lower Duleek; Upper Slane	ME026-02101		
026-01503	Canal Lock	01503	Canal Lock	026	Meath	Roughgrange	Lower Duleek			
026-01504	Aqueduct	01504	Bridge (Canal Aqueduct)	026	Meath	Roughgrange	Lower Duleek			

## Appendix 8 Protected Views

View No.	Location	Description	Importance
31	County road between Boyne Canal and Roughgrange	Intermittent views of the main tumulus in Newgrange can be obtained from many points along this road and adjacent areas. Visibility often determined by the current state of hedgerow maintenance.	International
34	N2 between Slane and Balrath	View of Boyne Valley with open view of Knowth and Newgrange. Mixed composition of working landscape. Slane visible on left (west). Roads and house visible.	International
58	County road between N51 and Knowth	First view of tumulus to south.	Regional
59	Knowth tumulus	Panoramic views in all directions from top of Knowth tumulus. Extensive views across a working countryside.	International
60	Obelisk Bridge at Oldbridge	View north west from bridge is selected as typical of the quality of local visual amenity at this location. A site of considerable scenic and historic significance. Site of Battle of the Boyne.	International
61	Hill at Graveyard at Sheephouse	Extensive view of settled lowland with extensive urbanisation visible to the east and north. Views to the north are extensive and encompass important cultural landscape of significance. Much woodland to the north and west.	National
62	County road between Duleek and Boyne Canal	Panoramic views across mixed agriculture and tillage, pasture and woodland. Views to north and west – dense woodland. Distant horizon skyline to north and west.	International
63	County road between Donore and Redmountain	Extensive view to north across woodland, pasture and tillage. Middle distance views of Knowth and Newgrange in centre of view and very little development visible.	International
64	County road between Duleek and Boyne Canal	Extensive view to north across woodland, pasture and tillage. Middle distance views of Knowth and Newgrange in centre of view and very little development visible.	International
89a	Views towards Brú na Bóinne from N51	Views along the N51 looking south into the Core Area of the World Heritage Site. from N51	National Area of the World

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View No.	Location	Description	Importance
89b	Views towards Brú na Bóinne from N51	Views along the N51 looking south into the Core Area of the World Heritage Site.	National
89c	Views towards Brú na Bóinne from N51	Views along the N51 looking south into the Core Area of the World Heritage Site.	National
90	West of crossroads at Monknewtown	Views at Monknewtown towards the Core Area of the World Heritage Site.	Regional
91	Views from Boyne and towpath	All views from within the World Heritage Site boundaries along the Boyne/Boyne Navigation towpath and proposed greenway looking towards the Core Area of the World Heritage Site.	International
92	Corballis	Views in from the road at Corballis turning in north westerly direction towards the Core Area of the World Heritage Site.	Regional
93a	Local road L16002, 1.2km east of Fenner Cross Roads	View towards the Core Area of the World Heritage Site.	Regional
93b	Local road L16002, 0.7km west of Rossnaree	View towards the Core Area of the World Heritage Site.	Regional
93c	Local road L16002, 1.65km east of Fenner Cross Roads	View towards the Core Area of the World Heritage Site.	Regional



## Appendix 9 Retrospective Statement of OUV



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Organisation  
des Nations Unies  
pour l'éducation,  
la science et la culture

Organización  
de las Naciones Unidas  
para la Educación,  
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация  
Объединенных Наций по  
вопросам образования,  
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة  
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、  
科学及文化组织

### The Culture Sector World Heritage Centre

H. E. Mr Michael Forbes  
Ambassador  
Permanent Delegate of Ireland to  
UNESCO  
12, avenue Foch  
75116 Paris

Ref.: CLT/WHC/6672/IE/MM

23 August 2013

**Subject : Adoption of the retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the World Heritage property “Brú na Bóinne - Archaeological Ensemble of the Bend of the Boyne”**

Dear Ambassador,

I would like to inform you that the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013) has adopted the retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value submitted by your State Party for the World Heritage property “Brú na Bóinne - Archaeological Ensemble of the Bend of the Boyne”.

Please find in Annex I the Decision **37 COM 8E**, and in Annex II the text of the Statement as adopted by the World Heritage Committee.

Please also note that the World Heritage Centre has modified the name of the property in the adopted retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value in accordance with Decision **37 COM 8B.6**. The final text was agreed by e-mail with Focal Points for World Heritage in Ireland.

The adopted Statements will be published on our website as soon as the translation in the other working language of the World Heritage Committee is finalized.

Let me take this opportunity to inform you that the draft statement for the following World Heritage property is still in the review process with the Advisory Bodies:

- Sceilg Mhichíl

Once finalized and agreed it will be presented to the World Heritage Committee at its forthcoming sessions.

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Let me thank you for your support to the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*, and please accept, dear Ambassador, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Bandarin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Francesco Bandarin  
Assistant Director-General for Culture  
Director a.i. of the World Heritage Centre

cc: Irish National Commission for UNESCO  
Focal Points for World Heritage in Ireland  
ICOMOS

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**Annex I****Extract of the Decisions adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 2013)****Adoption of retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value****Draft Decision: 37 COM 8E**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-13/37.COM/8E,
2. Congratulates States Parties for the excellent work accomplished in the elaboration of retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for World Heritage properties in their territories;
3. Adopts the retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value, as presented in the Annex of Document WHC-13/37.COM/8E, for the following World Heritage properties:
  - Andorra: Madriu-Perafita-Claror Valley;
  - Argentina: Cueva de las Manos, Río Pinturas; Jesuit Block and Estancias of Córdoba; Quebrada de Humahuaca; Iguazu National Park;
  - Australia: Shark Bay, Western Australia; Greater Blue Mountains Area; Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens; Willandra Lakes Region; Kakadu National Park;
  - Austria / Hungary: Fertő / Neusiedlersee Cultural Landscape;
  - Bangladesh: The Sundarbans; Ruins of the Buddhist Vihara at Paharpur;
  - Belgium : La Grand-Place, Brussels;
  - Belgium / France: Belfries of Belgium and France;
  - Bolivia: Forte de Samaipata; Tiwanaku: Spiritual and Political Centre of the Tiwanaku Culture; Historic City of Sucre; Jesuit Missions of the Chiquitos;
  - Brazil: Serra da Capivara National Park;
  - Chile: Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works; Rapa Nui National Park; Churches of Chiloé; Sewell Mining Town; Historic quarter of the Seaport City of Valparaiso;
  - China: Huanglong Scenic and Historic Interest Area; Mount Huangshan; Mountain Resort and its Outlying Temples, Chengde; Ancient City of Ping Yao; Classical Gardens of Suzhou; Summer Palace, an Imperial Garden in Beijing; Ancient Villages in Southern Anhui – Xidi and Hongcun; Longmen Grottoes; Yungang Grottoes; Yin Xu; Imperial Tombs of the Ming and Qing Dynasties; Historic center of Macao; Mausoleum of the First Qin Emperor;
  - Colombia: Port, Fortresses and Group of Monuments, Cartagena; Historic Centre of Santa Cruz de Mompox; San Agustín Archaeological Park; National Archeological Park of Tierradentro;
  - Costa Rica: Area de Conservación Guanacaste;
  - Cuba: Trinidad and the Valley de los Ingenios; Desembarco del Granma National Park; Alejandro de Humboldt National Park; Old Havana;
  - Cyprus: Choirokoitia; Painted Churches in the Troodos Region;

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- Denmark: Kronborg Castle;
- Ecuador: City of Quito; Historic Centre of Santa Ana de los Ríos de Cuenca; Galápagos Islands;
- El Salvador: Joya de Cerén Archaeological Site;
- Ethiopia: Aksum; Fasil Ghebbi;
- Finland / Sweden: High Coast / Kvarken Archipelago;
- Guatemala: Archeological Park and Ruins of Quirigua; Antigua Guatemala;
- Germany: Classical Weimar; Messel Pit Fossil Site; Roman Monuments, Cathedral of St Peter and Church of Our Lady in Trier; Aachen Cathedral; Cologne Cathedral; Hanseatic City of Lübeck; Historic Centres of Stralsund and Wismar; Museumsinsel (Museum Island), Berlin; Old town of Regensburg with Stadthof; Speyer Cathedral; Town Hall and Roland on the Marketplace of Bremen; Town of Bamberg;
- Greece: Mount Athos;
- Honduras: Maya Site of Copan;
- Hungary: Old Village of Hollókő and its Surroundings; Millenary Benedictine Abbey of Pannonhalma and its Natural Environment; Early Christian Necropolis of Pécs (Sopianae); Tokaj Wine Region Historic Cultural Landscape; Hortobágy National Park - the Puszta; Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrásy Avenue;
- Hungary / Slovakia: Caves of Aggtelek Karst and Slovak Karst;
- India: Sun Temple, Konârak; Group of Monuments at Hampi; Fatehpur Sikri; Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi; Ajanta Caves; Ellora Caves; Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodh Gaya; Elephanta Caves; Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park; Great Living Chola Temples; Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (formerly Victoria Terminus); Mountain Railways of India;
- Indonesia: Ujung Kulon National Park; Komodo National Park; Lorentz National Park; Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra; Sangiran Early Man Site;
- Iran (Islamic Republic of): Pasargadae; Takht-e Soleyman;
- Ireland: Archaeological Ensemble of the Bend of the Boyne;
- Italy: Venice and its Lagoon;
- Japan: Yakushima; Shirakami-Sanchi; Buddhist Monuments in the Horyu-ji Area; Shiretoko; Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto (Kyoto, Uji and Otsu Cities); Shrines and Temples of Nikko; Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range; Itsukushima Shinto Shrine; Himeji-jo;
- Latvia: Historic Centre of Riga;
- Lao People's Democratic Republic: Town of Luang Prabang;
- Lithuania: Vilnius Historic Centre;
- Luxembourg: City of Luxembourg: its Old Quarters and Fortifications;
- Malaysia: Kinabalu Park;
- Mauritius: Aapravasi Ghat;
- Mexico: Pre-Hispanic City of Teotihuacan; Historic Centre of Morelia; Earliest 16th-Century Monasteries on the Slopes of Popocatepetl; Historic Monuments Zone of Querétaro; Historic Fortified Town of Campeche; Franciscan Missions in the Sierra Gorda of Querétaro; Agave Landscape and the Ancient Industrial Facilities of Tequila; Whale Sanctuary of El Vizcaino; Ancient Maya City of Calakmul, Campeche; Archaeological

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- Monuments Zone of Xochicalco; Historic Monuments Zone of Tlacotalpan; Pre-Hispanic City of Chichen-Itza; Historic Centre of Zacatecas; Historic Centre of Oaxaca and Archaeological Site of Monte Albán; Sian Ka'an; Luis Barragán House and Studio; Rock Paintings of the Sierra de San Francisco; Archaeological Zone of Paquimé, Casas Grandes; Historic Centre of Puebla; Historic Town of Guanajuato and Adjacent Mines; Pre-hispanic town of Uxmal; Hospicio Cabañas, Guadalajara; Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California; Historic Centre of Mexico City and Xochimilco; Pre-Hispanic City and National Park of Palenque; El Tajin, Pre-Hispanic City;
- Netherlands: Ir.D.F. Woudagemaal (D.F. Wouda Steam Pumping Station); Schokland and Surroundings; Droogmakerij de Beemster (Beemster Polder); Rietveld Schröderhuis (Rietveld Schröder House);
  - Nicaragua: Ruins of León Viejo;
  - Nigeria: Sukur Cultural Landscape;
  - Norway: Rock Art of Alta; Urnes Stave Church; Bryggen;
  - Oman: Archaeological Sites of Bat, Al-Khutm and Al-Ayn;
  - Pakistan: Taxila; Historical Monuments at Makli, Thatta; Rohtas Fort; Buddhist Ruins of Takht-i-Bahi and Neighbouring City Remains at Sahr-i-Bahlol;
  - Panama: Darien National Park;
  - Paraguay: Jesuit Missions of La Santísima Trinidad de Paraná and Jesús de Tavarangue;
  - Peru: City of Cuzco; Chavin (Archaeological Site); Historic Centre of Lima; Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu;
  - Philippines: Historic town of Vigan;
  - South Africa: uKhahlamba / Drakensberg Park;
  - Switzerland: Convent of St Gall; Benedictine Convent of St John at Müstair; Old City of Berne; Three Castles, Defensive Wall and Ramparts of the Market-Town of Bellinzona;
  - Thailand: Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex; Thungyai-Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuaries; Historic Town of Sukhothai and Associated Historic Towns; Ban Chiang Archaeological Site;
  - Turkey: Göreme National Park and the Rock Sites of Cappadocia; Nemrut Dağ; Great Mosque and Hospital of Divriği;
  - United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: Blaenavon Industrial Landscape; Blenheim Palace; Canterbury Cathedral, St Augustine's Abbey, and St Martin's Church; Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd; City of Bath; Durham Castle and Cathedral; Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast; Heart of Neolithic Orkney; Ironbridge Gorge; Maritime Greenwich; New Lanark; Old and New Towns of Edinburgh; Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites; Studley Royal Park including the Ruins of Fountains Abbey; Tower of London; St Kilda; Westminster Palace, Westminster Abbey and Saint Margaret's Church;
  - Uruguay: Historic Quarter of the City of Colonia del Sacramento;
  - Uzbekistan: Itchan Kala;
  - Venezuela : Coro and its Port; Ciudad Universitaria de Caracas;

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4. Decides that retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for World Heritage properties in Danger will be reviewed by the Advisory Bodies in priority;
5. Further decides that, considering the high number of retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value to be examined, the order in which they will be reviewed by the Advisory Bodies will follow the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting, namely:
  - World Heritage properties in the Arab States;
  - World Heritage properties in Africa;
  - World Heritage properties in Asia and the Pacific;
  - World Heritage properties in Latin America and the Caribbean;
  - World Heritage properties in Europe and North America;
6. Requests the World Heritage Centre to harmonise all sub-headings in the adopted Statements of Outstanding Universal Value where appropriate and when resources and staff time allow to carry out this work;
7. Also requests the State Parties, Advisory Bodies and World Heritage Centre to ensure the use of gender-neutral language in the Statements proposed for adoption to the World Heritage Committee;
8. Further requests the World Heritage Centre to keep the adopted Statements in line with subsequent decisions by the World Heritage Committee concerning name changes of World Heritage properties, and to reflect them throughout the text of the Statements, in consultation with States Parties and Advisory Bodies;
9. Finally requests the States Parties to provide support to the World Heritage Centre for translation of the adopted Statements of Outstanding Universal Value into English or French respectively, and finally requests the Centre to upload these onto its web-pages.

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## Annex II

**Text of the retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for World Heritage property in Ireland, as adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 2013)**

Property	<b>Brú na Bóinne - Archaeological Ensemble of the Bend of the Boyne</b>
State Party	<b>Ireland</b>
Id. N°	<b>659</b>
Date of inscription	<b>1993</b>

**Brief synthesis**

Bounded on the south by a bend in the River Boyne, the prehistoric site of Brú na Bóinne is dominated by the three great burial mounds of Knowth, Newgrange and Dowth. Surrounded by about forty satellite passage graves, they constitute a funerary landscape recognised as having great ritual significance, subsequently attracting later monuments of the Iron Age, early Christian and medieval periods.

Located about 40 km north of Dublin on a ridge between the rivers Boyne and Mattock, within several kilometres of other prehistoric mounds, the site is part of an area rich in stories of Ireland's ancient past. Predominantly agricultural at the present time the area has been extensively explored for more than a hundred years by archaeologists and historians, with excavations revealing many features.

The Knowth group, where the earliest features date from the Neolithic period and the latest from the Anglo-Norman period, has produced thirty monuments and sites that figure on the official inventory; these include passage graves adorned with petroglyphs, enclosures, occupation sites and field systems. The Newgrange group is purely prehistoric, with a ringfort, cursus, passage graves and a henge. The Dowth group is similar to that at Newgrange but there is medieval evidence in the form of a church and a castle.

**Criterion (i):** The Brú na Bóinne monuments represent the largest and most important expression of prehistoric megalithic plastic art in Europe.

**Criterion (iii):** The concentration of social, economic and funerary monuments at this important ritual centre and the long continuity from prehistory to the late medieval period make this one of the most significant archaeological sites in Europe.

**Criterion (iv):** The passage grave, here brought to its finest expression, was a feature of outstanding importance in prehistoric Europe and beyond.

**Integrity**

The 780 ha area of the World Heritage property encapsulates the attributes for which the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List. In addition to the large passage tombs of Knowth, Newgrange and Dowth, 90 recorded monuments – as well as an unknown quantity of as yet unrecorded sites – remain scattered across the ridge above the Boyne and over the low-lying areas and floodplain closer to (the present course of) the rivers.

The buffer zone is comprised of 2,500 hectares, the boundary lines respecting carefully mapped views into and out of the property. Since inscription in 1993, views out of the property have been impacted by the M1 bridge crossing the River Boyne to the east of the property; the addition of a third chimney and other structures to the cement factory on the skyline to the east south-east near Duleek; the addition of an incinerator stack to the skyline at Carranstown and a housing development. The ambiance of the ritual centre is vulnerable to such disturbances which could potentially threaten the integrity of the property. The local authority (Meath County Council) has in place planning policies and procedures to deal with applications for developments which may either incrementally or individually have potential impact on the integrity of the World Heritage property.

**Authenticity**

The archaeological remains on the site, both above and below ground are wholly authentic. Major excavations have been carried out at Newgrange and Knowth and have been fully published. Many small excavations and surveys have been carried out in the area. The main conservation works have concentrated on the two main passage tombs at Newgrange and Knowth subsequent

to the excavations undertaken at these sites. All conservation and restoration work has been carried out by skilled professional staff.

At Newgrange, there has been comprehensive anastylosis of the kerbstones and the revetment wall, though the latter has been curtailed to allow access by visitors. The passage roof was completely dismantled to allow the orthostats to be returned to the vertical, with the introduction of reinforcement, and a cowl has been constructed over the chamber area. The cairn itself has been stabilised by means of thin revetments of cairn stones.

At Knowth, structures from all periods are being conserved. In some passage tombs outer support walls have been built for the burial chambers, involving the use of modern materials such as cement and plastic. Where such new additions are visible they are clearly distinguished in appearance from original materials, but in other cases they are completely concealed.

The restoration work on these monuments, the result of close collaboration between archaeologists and conservation architects, conforms with the principles enunciated in Article 7 of the International Charter for Archaeological Heritage Management of 1990.

#### **Protection and management requirements**

The protection and conservation of the Archaeological Ensemble of the Brú na Bóinne is provided by a range of national legislation, international guidelines, statutory and non-statutory guidance. These provisions include the National Monuments Acts of 1930-2004, the Wildlife Acts of 1976 and 2000, the Planning and Development Acts, various EU Directives and international charters. The national monuments legislative code makes provision for the protection and preservation of national monuments and for the preservation of archaeological objects in the State. The Planning and Development Acts provide a framework to protect against undesirable development.

Most of the 780 hectare site is in private ownership. At the time of inscription only 32 hectares, largely around Knowth and Newgrange, were in State ownership (in 2011, 42.75 hectares are in State ownership). The State-owned part of the property has been under the direct management of the Office of Public Works. This State Office uses its professional staff of conservation architects, engineers, land managers and craftsmen in the day to day management activities. Archaeological input to the conservation and presentation of the property is provided by the National Monuments Service of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The State Exchequer provides the funding needed for maintenance, management and conservation.

The local authority development plan (Meath County Development Plan) for the area in which the Brú na Bóinne is situated seeks to protect the archaeological and cultural landscape and to enhance views within and adjacent to the World Heritage property. The protection of views within and out of the property is a major factor contributing to retention of the property's integrity.

The Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre opened to the public in June 1997. Its primary purpose is to manage the flow of visitors to the megalithic tombs of Newgrange and Knowth. Education, public awareness and an emphasis on local engagement are also central to the role of the Centre. The number of visitors to these monuments each day is limited to the maximum that can be accommodated with due regard to the protection of the monuments. Access to the monuments is by guided tour only.



## Annex III

**Extract of the Decisions adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session  
(Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 2013)****Changes to names of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List****Decision: 37 COM 8B.2**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-13/37.COM/8B,
2. Approves the name change to the **Archaeological Ensemble of the Bend of the Boyne** as proposed by the Irish authorities. The name of the property becomes **Brú na Bóinne - Archaeological Ensemble of the Bend of the Boyne** in English and **Brú na Bóinne - Ensemble archéologique de la Vallée de la Boyne** in French.

# Appendix 10 Action Plan

## Objective 1

Statement of Universal Value	Action	Lead Agencies	Target for Implementation	Indicators
<p>To ensure the co-operation of the all stakeholders in the implementation of measures that seek to preserve the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the World Heritage Site (WHS) and to incorporate the protection of the OUV into relevant legislation, planning guidelines and policies.</p>	1.1 Establish a Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site Management Plan Implementation Group.	DAHRRGA	Year 1	Establishment of Group
	1.2 Appoint a Site Manager and Management Team.	DAHRRGA, OPW	Year 1	In place
	1.3 Provide adequate funding, resources and logistical support.	DAHRRGA, OPW, Local Authorities	Ongoing	Funding and resources available
	1.4 Liaise with public agencies, e.g. the Heritage Council and Fáilte Ireland, non-governmental organisations and interest groups, as required, to ensure the effective implementation of the Management Plan.	Relevant parties, DAHRRGA, OPW	Ongoing	Meetings held and actions agreed
	1.5 Set up a Community Forum to meet at least twice a year (see main text for details).	Relevant parties, DAHRRGA, OPW	Year 1	Establishment of Community Forum
	1.6 Establish and maintain an ownership map for the Core Area with the aim of extending the ownership map out to the Buffer Zone.	DAHRRGA, Local Authorities	Within life of plan	Information gathered and updated
	1.7 Produce an annual report to be submitted to UNESCO and uploaded to <a href="http://www.worldheritageireland.ie">www.worldheritageireland.ie</a> to inform all stakeholders of progress.	DAHRRGA	Annual	Report completed and submitted

## Objective 2

Statement of Universal Value	Action	Lead Agencies	Target for Implementation	Indicators
To monitor and maintain the adequacy of the core and buffer zones that make up the WHS property – in particular the protection of the boundaries of the property and its setting.	2.1 Carry out a review and study of the boundaries of the WHS property at regular intervals.	DAHRRGA, OPW	Within life of Plan	Produce annual statement
	2.2 Monitor the effectiveness of the existing Core Area and Buffer Zones in the protection of the OUV of the WHS.	DAHRRGA	Twice during the lifetime of this Plan	Produce a statement at year three and seven of the plan
	2.3 Promote knowledge and understanding of the significance of the WHS Core Area and Buffer Zones.	DAHRRGA	Ongoing	Production of information in appropriate media
	2.4 Integrate protective measures for the WHS with development plans and other infrastructural development plans.	DAHRRGA, Local Authorities, development agencies	Co-ordinate with relevant agencies at appropriate times	Inclusion of WHS references in relevant plans
	2.5 Consult with the Community Forum before making any changes to the boundaries.	DAHRRGA	See 2.2	Consultation takes place
	2.6 Inform UNESCO of any large-scale or infrastructural schemes which may affect the WHS.	DAHRRGA	Notification when scheme comes in for planning	Prompt notification of such schemes

### Objective 3

Statement of Universal Value	Action	Lead Agencies	Target for Implementation	Indicators
<p>To ensure adequate measures and procedures in liaison with Meath and Louth County Councils with regard to County Development Plans, and to recommend appropriate measures in the current review of the National Monuments Acts.</p>	<p>3.1 Request Meath County Council and Louth County Council to incorporate this Management Plan in their respective County Development Plans.</p>	<p>DAHRRGA, Local Authorities, development agencies</p>	<p>Co-ordinate with relevant agencies at <b>appropriate</b> times</p>	<p>Inclusion of references to this Management Plan in the County Development Plans</p>
	<p>3.2 Liaise with the Department in the review of the National Monuments Acts to seek particular protection for the sites within the WHS and protection of its OUV.</p>	<p>DAHRRGA</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Inclusion of specific protection measures in forthcoming National Monuments legislation</p>
	<p>3.3 Ensure that all newly discovered monuments entered in the Sites and Monuments Record are registered immediately within the WHS.</p>	<p>DAHRRGA</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Inclusion on Register of Historic Monuments</p>

## Objective 4

Statement of Universal Value	Action	Lead Agencies	Target for Implementation	Indicators
<p>To promote a wider knowledge of the significance of the WHS and its OUV through the dissemination of information relevant to the WHS and the benefits of its ongoing preservation and conservation.</p>	4.1 Improve access to relevant information.	DAHRRGA, OPW	Ongoing	Ongoing
	4.2 Disseminate such information in various media including websites and related media.	DAHRRGA, OPW	Ongoing	Production of information in appropriate media
	4.3 Maintain liaison with Meath County Council and Louth County Council with regard to raising the profile of the WHS OUV.	DAHRRGA, Local Authorities	Co-ordinate with relevant agencies at appropriate times	Report on liaison and steps taken
	4.4 Improve access by way of virtual tours of the monuments not open to the public, e.g. Dowth.	DAHRRGA, OPW	Within lifetime of Plan	Production of virtual tours
	4.4 Include more promotional material such as solstice events on <a href="http://www.worldheritageireland.ie">www.worldheritageireland.ie</a> .	DAHRRGA	Within lifetime of Plan	New regime in place
	4.5 Work with OPW to improve less formal access to Dowth (South) passage tomb.	DAHRRGA/OPW	Negotiations to begin immediately	Access improved

## Objective 5

Statement of Universal Value	Action	Lead Agencies	Target for Implementation	Indicators
To promote and use the existing research framework in order to encourage projects that will inform not only archaeological research but also management of the WHS.	5.1 Draft terms of reference for, and appoint an Expert Advisory Committee to advise on best practice for a publication programme and future research.	DAHRRGA, OPW	Year 1	Production of terms of reference and appointment of Expert Group
	5.2 Review research framework at appropriate intervals.	DAHRRGA, OPW,	Within life of Plan	Report of review
	5.3 Enhance visitors' experience of visiting the site through increasing knowledge of Brú na Bóinne and by encouraging research and ensuring research results are disseminated.	DAHRRGA, OPW, Fáilte Ireland	Ongoing	Report of ongoing enhancements
	5.4 Support any relevant national research programmes.	DAHRRGA, OPW,	Ongoing	Document support as appropriate
	5.5 Implement the research framework and promote the participation of universities and interested parties in research programmes.	DAHRRGA, OPW,	Ongoing	Report on ongoing implementation
	5.6 Establish a research archive.	DAHRRGA, OPW	Within life of Plan	Archive already established
	5.7 Update the exhibition at the WHS Visitor Centre in light of new information and research.	OPW	Within life of Plan	Exhibition launched
	5.8 Work on the new visitor facility at Knowth House and ensure a high quality of information and presentation.	OPW/DAHRRGA	Within life of Plan	Facility opened to the public
	5.9 Continue to give grant aid to the Royal Irish Academy for the Directed Archaeological Research grant scheme.	DAHRRGA	Within life of Plan	Continuance of grant aid

## Objective 6

Statement of Universal Value		Action	Lead Agencies	Target for Implementation	Indicators
To preserve the cultural heritage of the WHS and sustain and enhance the WHS OUV through the conservation of its archaeology including its structures, artwork and landscape.	6.1 The condition and vulnerability of all archaeological sites and monuments throughout the WHS will be reviewed regularly to guide future management action and priorities.	DAHRRGA, OPW	At appropriate intervals	Report of review	
	6.2 All artwork will be monitored annually and vulnerabilities used to inform work plans.	OPW	Annual	Report received	
	6.3 The setting of visible monuments and sites in the landscape and their inter-relationships will be maintained and enhanced with particular attention given to achieving an appropriate landscape setting for the passage tombs and other key monuments.	DAHRRGA, OPW, Local Authorities	Ongoing	Monitoring reports	
	6.4 A framework for archaeological survey of the Core Area will be created with an aim of extending the survey out to the Buffer Zone.	DAHRRGA	Within life of Plan	Framework developed	

## Objective 7

Statement of Universal Value	Action	Lead Agencies	Target for Implementation	Indicators
<p>To preserve the cultural heritage of the WHS and sustain and enhance its OUV through the conservation of its archaeology and landscape setting.</p>	<p>7.1 Draft a full pre-works survey and a detailed specification for each phase of future works, in advance of any work commencing on the site.</p>	<p>OPW, DAHRRGA</p>	<p>Project deadline</p>	<p>Production of project design</p>
	<p>7.2 Prepare a formal, structured maintenance programme for all conserved structures.</p>	<p>OPW, DAHRRGA</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Report of maintenance programme</p>
	<p>7.3 Produce a detailed stratigraphic report of the archaeological excavations for lodgement in the Archive Section, DAHRRGA, and for publication on website</p>	<p>OPW, DAHRRGA</p>	<p>On project completion</p>	<p>Submission and publication of excavation report</p>
	<p>7.4 Produce a detailed report on all conservation interventions for lodgement in the Archive Section, DAHRRGA.</p>	<p>DAHRRGA, OPW, Heritage Council</p>	<p>On project completion</p>	<p>Submission of conservation report</p>



## Objective 8

Statement of Universal Value	Action	Lead Agencies	Target for Implementation	Indicators
To identify and protect the natural heritage of the WHS.	8.1 Prepare and implement a five-year biodiversity plan for the WHS.	DAHRRGA, Local Authorities	2017	Production of five-year plan
	8.2 Maintain close co-operation, including regular meetings, between the project team, the guide service and the NPWS.	DAHRRGA	Ongoing	Meetings held
	8.3 Issue, as necessary, consent for notifiable activity.	DAHRRGA	Ongoing	Consents issued
	8.4 Ensure an Appropriate Assessment for any plan or project (either individually or in combination) likely to have a significant effect on the species and their habitats for which the SPA and the SAC has been designated.	DAHRRGA, Local Authority	As required	Production of list on Appropriate Assessment

## Objective 9

Statement of Universal Value		Action	Lead Agencies	Target for Implementation	Indicators	
<p>To protect the sustainability and encourage the viability of the communities living within the Core Area and Buffer Zone of the WHS. Key to the sustainability of these communities is their ability to continue to live, work and play within the area.</p>		9.1	Establish a Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site Community Forum to discuss issues relating to the WHS in general and to make observations on the implementation of the plan.	DAHRRGA	On acceptance of the Plan by UNESCO	Forum established
		9.2	Work with Local Authorities to develop a guidance document which provides advice on siting and design in relation to residential and agricultural development within the WHS.	DAHRRGA, Local Authorities	Within 1 year	Production of guidance document
		9.3	Work with the Local Authorities to facilitate consultation with applicants regarding the siting and design of developments affecting the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne, and the scope of any necessary impact assessments.	DAHRRGA, Local Authorities	Ongoing	Record of meetings with Local Authorities
		9.4	Work with the Local Authorities and other relevant agencies in encouraging sustainable economic development in the area, particularly in tourism and agriculture enterprises.	DAHRRGA, Local Authorities	Ongoing	Development of tourism and agri-culture enterprises
		9.5	Make all reports referenced in this Plan available to the public.	DAHRRGA	Within 1 year	All plans to be put on <a href="http://www.world-heritageireland.ie">www.world-heritageireland.ie</a>
		9.6	Examine and, where possible, rectify issues raised in the consultation process which have no impact on the OUV of the site.	DAHRRGA/OPW	Immediate and ongoing	Progress to be shared with the local community
		9.7	Discuss transport and signage issues with the relevant authorities.	DAHRRGA/OPW	Already begun	Progress to be shared with the local community
		9.8	Work with OPW to deliver an online ticketing service.	DAHRRGA/OPW	Discuss year 1	Progress to be shared with the local community
		9.10	Ensure that the Community Forum has access to site managers and officials from DAHRRGA and OPW on a regular basis.	DAHRRGA/OPW	Ongoing	Effective liaison
		9.11	Work with the Community Forum to ensure that its terms of reference are developed in such a way as to provide influence, accountability and relevance to the Forum and the local community.	DAHRRGA	Ongoing	Stakeholder satisfaction

## Objective 10

Statement of Universal Value	Action	Lead Agencies	Target for Implementation	Indicators
<p>To protect and preserve the OUV of the WHS and its setting by assessing risks and potential risks, reviewing current preparedness and suggesting appropriate corrective measures.</p>	<p>10.1 Identify and evaluate the protection of the WHS and OUV from risks and potential risks.</p>	<p>DAHRRGA, OPW, Local Authorities</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Risk evaluation/vulnerability report</p>
	<p>10.2 Document risks and potential counter-measures.</p>	<p>DAHRRGA, OPW, Local Authorities</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Production of risk report</p>
	<p>10.3 Recommend monitoring systems and possible preventative measures and plans.</p>	<p>DAHRRGA, OPW, Local Authorities</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Report of recommended preventative measures</p>

## Objective 11

Statement of Universal Value		Action	Lead Agencies	Target for Implementation	Indicators
To develop the sustainable tourism potential of the site and to achieve an appropriate balance with the protection and preservation of the OUV of the WHS and its setting.	11.1	Ensure that all practices are consistent with the maintenance of the OUV of the WHS.	DAHRRGA, OPW, Fáilte Ireland, Local Authorities	Ongoing	No threat to OUV
	11.2	Maintain ongoing assessment of visitor numbers and management to ensure early identification of potential threats to the OUV.	DAHRRGA, OPW	Ongoing	Report on threats to OUV
	11.3	Develop an integrated approach with Ireland's Ancient East, the Boyne Valley Tourism Office, Fáilte Ireland, local tourism networks, and Local Authorities in their development of a tourism strategy for the greater area.	DAHRRGA, OPW, Fáilte Ireland, Boyne Valley Drive	Ongoing	Report of current and future tourism initiatives
	11.4	Identify monuments in private ownership which could be made accessible to the public with co-operation from the landowner.	DAHRRGA	Ongoing	Produce ownership map with accessible monuments
	11.5	Identify, in conjunction with the local community and local tourism networks, sustainable agritourism initiatives appropriate to the WHS.	DAHRRGA, Local Authorities, Fáilte Ireland	Ongoing	Development of sustainable agritourism activities in the WHS
	11.6	Advise landowners proposing to allow access to monuments on their land of best practice for visitor management and assist, where possible, with proposals to provide tours or visitor services.	DAHRRGA, landowners Ongoing	Annual	Report on meetings

## Objective 12

Statement of Universal Value	Action	Lead Agencies	Target for Implementation	Indicators
To sustainably manage tourism strategies and initiatives in the light of obligation to preserve, conserve and maintain the OUV of the WHS.	12.1 Continue to review the optimum number of visitors to the individual sites consistent with site protection.	OPW, DAHRRGA	Ongoing	Report on visitor figures
	12.2 Review education values by carrying out a detailed visitor assessment of visitor impact and trends.	OPW, DAHRRGA, Fáilte Ireland	Ongoing	Review of education values
	12.3 Collect visitor statistics for each season and analyse trends.	OPW	Ongoing	Report of analysis of visitor trends
	12.4 Continue to explore sustainable cultural tourism initiatives which have the potential to further deepen the engagement of the local community, visitors and tourists with the WHS.	DAHRRGA, OPW, local community, Fáilte Ireland	Annual	Report at annual meeting
	12.5 In the spirit of co-operation and to ensure conservation obligations are communicated to tourism agencies; continue to liaise with Fáilte Ireland and local tourism bodies.	DAHRRGA, OPW, local community, Fáilte Ireland	Annual	Include section in annual report
	12.6 Investigate future uses for Knowth House.	DAHRRGA, OPW	Within lifetime of Plan	Completion of actions
	12.7 Provide an online booking/ticketing system to enable a more flexible and open approach to the tourist experience (see Action 9.8 above).	OPW	Within lifetime of Plan	Online booking system in place

## Objective 13

Statement of Universal Value		Action	Lead Agencies	Target for Implementation	Indicators
To ensure that visitors have a safe and informative experience when they visit the site and that a quality service is provided for them.	13.1	Maintain a quality guide service to enhance the visitor experience by ensuring that there are relevant training programmes in place for the guides.	OPW	Ongoing	Delivery of training programmes
	13.2	Continue to balance the need to preserve the National Monuments and facilitate public access with appropriate management.	DAHRRGA, OPW	Ongoing	Provision of appropriate access
	13.3	Liaise with Transport Infrastructure Ireland, and Meath and Louth Local Authorities to place internationally recognised UNESCO WHS signage at the boundaries of the site.	DAHRRGA, OPW, Local Authorities, Transport Infrastructure Ireland	Ongoing	Erection of signage
	13.4	Liaise with relevant bodies on a review of the current directional signage.	DAHRRGA, OPW, Local Authorities, Transport Infrastructure Ireland	Within life of Plan	Report on review of signage issues
	13.5	Make use of the arts to interpret and promote the WHS to the people of Ireland and the world.	DAHRRGA	Ongoing	Development of new arts projects
	13.6	Examine in co-operation with the Local Authorities and residents the issues relating to road traffic, buses and parking raised by the local community during the consultations associated with the making of this Plan.	DAHRRGA, Local Authorities, Residents, TII	Regular meetings	Improved access to the WHS and approval of residents.

## Objective 14

Statement of Universal Value	Action	Lead Agencies	Target for Implementation	Indicators
<p>To protect and preserve the OUV of the WHS and its setting by reviewing the condition and vulnerability of the sites and monuments and their setting within the WHS and to adjust management actions and guidance accordingly.</p>	14.1 Monitor and document at appropriate intervals the condition and vulnerability of monuments within the WHS.	DAHRRGA, OPW	Ongoing	Production of monitoring reports
	14.2 Identify potential threats to the monuments and the OUV.	DAHRRGA, OPW, Local Authorities	Ongoing	Report of threats as appropriate
	14.3 Take appropriate action and prioritise the protection of monuments.	DAHRRGA, OPW	As required	Report relevant interventions

## Objective 15

Statement of Universal Value	Action	Lead Agencies	Target for Implementation	Indicators
<p>To protect and preserve the OUV of the WHS and its setting by the prevention of negative impacts from current practices, and changes to any current benign practices which would result in a negative impact on the OUV of the WHS.</p>	15.1 Monitor at appropriate intervals agricultural practices within the WHS.	DAHRRGA	Every 3 years	Report of monitoring at appropriate intervals
	15.2 Identify potential threats to the OUV.	DAHRRGA	Ongoing	Report of threats and vulnerabilities
	15.3 Ensure that all practices are consistent with the maintenance of the OUV of the WHS.	DAHRRGA	Ongoing	Recommend good practice
	15.4 Liaise with the farming body (IFA) and Teagasc to produce good practice guidelines in relation to farming practices within WHSs.	DAH, IFA	Within life of Plan	Publish guidelines



## Objective 16

Statement of Universal Value	Action	Lead Agencies	Target for Implementation	Indicators
<p>To protect and preserve the OUV of the WHS and its setting by providing appropriate guidance and advice to Local Authorities and development agents concerning the protection of the OUV of the WHS.</p>	<p>16.1 Protect the WHS and OUV from adverse development impacts.</p>	<p>DAHRRGA, OPW, Local Authorities</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Report of monitoring at appropriate intervals</p>
	<p>16.2 Offer appropriate advice and guidance to Local Authorities and relevant development agencies and agents.</p>	<p>DAHRRGA</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Report of threats and vulnerabilities</p>
	<p>16.3 Implement the provisions of the Local Authority Development Plans and other relevant legislation/regulations.</p>	<p>Local Authorities, DAHRRGA,</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Recommend good practice</p>
	<p>16.4 Encourage, where appropriate, the conservation and sustainable re-use of existing traditional and vernacular buildings within the WHS.</p>	<p>Local Authorities, DAHRRGA</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Develop series of re-use case studies, disseminate findings and continue to provide advice to owners of traditional buildings</p>
	<p>16.5 Monitor and document at appropriate intervals the nature and density of development within and around the WHS.</p>	<p>DAHRRGA, Local Authorities</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Report on development trends and issues</p>
	<p>16.6 Continue in conjunction with Meath County Council to provide an integrated pre-planning service where the Council's and DAHRRGA's officials will jointly comment on pre-planning issues within the WHS.</p>	<p>DAHRRGA, Local Authorities</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Report annually to the Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site Management Plan Implementation Group on the work of the service</p>

## Objective 17

Statement of Universal Value	Action	Lead Agencies	Target for Implementation	Indicators
To protect and preserve the OUV of the WHS.	17.1 Continue to promote the WHS as a learning resource to schools and local communities.	OPW	Ongoing	Satisfied customers
	17.2 Upgrade the information in the Visitor's Centre to the highest standard and ensure it is reflective of recent archaeological research.	OPW/DAHRRGA	During first 4 years of Plan	Upgrade completed
	17.3 Examine the uses of Knowth House for educational purposes.	OPW/DAHRRGA	First year of Plan	Report to the Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site Management Plan Implementation Group
	17.4 Ensure that the new facility in Knowth House complements the information from the main Visitor Centre.	OPW/DAHRRGA	During first 4 years of Plan	Upgrade completed
	17.5 Create a virtual visit to the monuments for people unable to visit them.	OPW/DAHRRGA	During first 4 years of Plan	Virtual visit completed
	17.6 Ensure that academic publications are followed up with non-specialist material based on the results of the academic work.	DAHRRGA/OPW	Ongoing	Report annually

## Objective 18

Statement of Universal Value		Action	Lead Agencies	Target for Implementation	Indicators
To ensure protection of the Boyne Canal sections of the Boyne Navigation where it passes through the WHS.	18.1	Facilitate the preservation and the restoration of the Boyne Canal and its Navigation where it passes through the WHS and its Buffer Zone.	OPW, An Taisce, DAHRRGA	Ongoing	Regular meetings with An Taisce
	18.2	Facilitate access to and along the Boyne Canal and Navigation for the purpose of restoration.	OPW, An Taisce, DAHRRGA	Ongoing	Regular meetings with An Taisce
	18.3	Maintain close co-operation and levels of consultation with An Taisce, as owners of the Boyne Navigation in all matters relating to same.	OPW, An Taisce, DAHRRGA	Ongoing	Regular meetings with An Taisce
	18.4	Maintain public access to, and on, the existing towpath which runs alongside the Boyne Canal.	OPW, An Taisce, DAHRRGA	Ongoing	Regular meetings with An Taisce
	18.5	Facilitate navigation along the Boyne Canal and relevant sections of the River Boyne where the Navigation passes through the WHS and Buffer Zone whilst ensuring that it does not pose any likely significant effects on archaeology, or on the conservation objectives of the relevant Natura 2000 sites.	OPW, An Taisce, DAHRRGA	Ongoing	Regular meetings with An Taisce
	18.6	Facilitate the provision of a walking and cycling track on the towpath.	Local Authority	Ongoing	Liaison with Local Authority

# Appendix 11 Review of the 2002 Management Plan

## Summary

This document sets out a review of the 2002 Management Plan and the issues arising. The objectives of the Plan and its implementation are highlighted and reviewed. This section is an important connection between the 2002 Management Plan and the 2017 Plan. By reviewing progress on the implementation of actions under the 2002 Plan, actions can be identified that should be taken forward in the 2017 Plan.

The first Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site Management Plan was published in 2002 following a full public consultation process. The 2002 Plan was envisaged as a five-year plan for the management of the World Heritage property dealing with issues surrounding the protection, conservation, research, presentation and general management of the property. However, due to a number of factors the new Plan is, regrettably, only now being published (2017).

The review indicates that significant progress has been made in many areas during the period since the implementation of the 2002 Management Plan and that, overall, that Plan has been effective. Some of the aims of the 2002 Plan were not achieved but, where appropriate, these actions were incorporated into the 2017 Plan.

## Practical Use of the 2002 Management Plan

The Management Plan has been used as an important reference document in a number of areas including planning and development, interpretation and education. The Plan has influenced the production of a research framework document for the site, *The Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site, Research Framework 2009*.

## Objectives

The Plan provided comprehensive information on the management history of the World Heritage Site together with an outline of the legal and protective measures in place for the area. Public access and visitor management were also addressed in the Management Plan.

The key objectives of the 2002 Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site Management Plan were as follows:

- To ensure protection of the site's cultural and natural heritage by implementing legislation, co-operating with landowners, and liaising effectively with planning and development authorities and other interested bodies.
- To undertake a monitoring programme of the impact of the conservation works at the megalithic tombs at Newgrange and Knowth and to prepare conservation strategies for the archaeological sites, the Special Areas of Conservation and the Natural Heritage Areas in Brú na Bóinne.
- To provide a high standard of public access and interpretation of the site.
- To establish key priorities for research in order to provide a greater understanding of the site's broad range of archaeological monuments.
- To maintain close co-operation with the local community and government departments and agencies to ensure the effective implementation of the Management Plan.

## Protection Objectives of the 2002 Management Plan

The National Monuments Acts 1930–2004 provide a strong legislative base for the protection of the archaeological monuments at Brú na Bóinne.

Monitoring of individual monuments is carried out from time to time and new discoveries have been made. The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) interim survey of County Meath was published in 2004 and the interim survey for County Louth in 2005, with Ministerial recommendations issued to the relevant planning authority in relation to the inclusion of properties on the Record of Protected Structures.

With regard to planning and development issues in relation to the protection of the landscape within the Core Area and Buffer Zones of the World Heritage Site, officials from the Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (DAHRRGA) regularly liaise with the Local Authorities and local property owners at pre-planning and planning application stages.

The Boyne River Islands and the River Boyne have been included in the Special Areas of Conservation, with

ongoing monitoring carried out by the National Parks and Wildlife Service of the DAHRRGA.

### **Conservation Objectives of the 2002 Management Plan**

The Office of Public Works monitors the conservation works on an ongoing basis measuring the effects of pollution, weathering and human impact on the decorated stones at Dowth, Knowth and Newgrange. The kerbstones at Knowth are protected from the weather for the winter months and the entrance stone in front of Newgrange is protected at night during the winter months. In relation to archaeological investigation at Dowth only non-invasive techniques are used. No management plan has yet been drafted for the conservation of the Natural Heritage Areas in Brú na Bóinne.

### **Presentation, Interpretation and Access Objectives of the 2002 Management Plan**

The management of the presentation, interpretation and access to the World Heritage Site has progressed successfully during the period since the publishing of the 2002 Plan. Public consultation, organised by Fáilte Ireland in association with Louth and Meath County Councils, was held in 2010 on matters surrounding directional signage for the Boyne Valley area.

A feasibility study on the development of a cycleway along the route of the Boyne Valley has been carried out with a view to providing safe, accessible and attractive routes suitable for a variety of users, such as pedestrians, young children and cyclists, and to connect the various landscape, cultural, heritage and social assets of the region. The Boyne Valley Destination Programme has been established to fully optimise the tourism potential in the area. The exhibitions in the Visitor Centre are monitored for effectiveness with a possible review following the completion of publications on the monument at Knowth. Visitor numbers are recorded and certain information is collected through student survey projects. Detailed surveys on visitors are not carried out on a regular basis and these would ensure a continued high standard of presentation.

### **Research Objectives of the 2002 Management Plan**

In 2009, the then Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG) and the Heritage Council published the *Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site*,

*Research Framework* which summarises the current state of knowledge of more than 6,000 years of activity at Brú na Bóinne. The framework highlights gaps in our knowledge in relation to the site and presents a series of 38 research questions.

Several other publications on archaeological excavation are available, in particular on the Royal Irish Academy website. There has been no recent aerial photography carried out in the Brú na Bóinne area. However, a full LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) survey of the World Heritage Site area was carried out as an action of the Meath Heritage Plan in 2007.

### **General Management Objectives of the 2002 Management Plan**

The 2002 Plan sought the adoption and inclusion of the World Heritage Site Management Plan in the County Development Plans of County Louth and County Meath. Chapter 8 of the Meath County Development Plan 2007–2013 contains several formally adopted policies of the World Heritage Site Management Plan. The Louth County Development Plan (2015-2015) now contains similar policies.

### **Implementation of the 2002 Management Plan**

A consultative committee was established to assist the implementation of the Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site Management Plan while at the same time providing a channel for communication between Government agencies and the local community. Regular meetings of this committee took place until 2006.

The absence of an active Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site Management Plan Implementation Group has resulted in the lack of a co-ordinated approach to the monitoring of the implementation of the actions outlined in the Plan. It is proposed to set up such a group in advance of the adoption of the new Brú na Bóinne Management Plan (2017).

### **Lessons Learned during the 2002 Management Plan Period**

- There are and will continue to be particular challenges to conserving the World Heritage Site, arising from some types of land use, development and the impact of increasing visitor numbers.

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- The range and complexity of interests within the World Heritage Site make its effective management inherently challenging.
- Although it has improved significantly, the understanding of the importance and values of the World Heritage Site need continual investment and resources.
- Signage continues to be an issue which must be addressed as a priority in the current Management Plan.
- The interests of conservation and local socioeconomic regeneration need to continue to be balanced in such a way that the needs of each can be met where possible, without compromising the Outstanding Universal Value of the site.
- The effective management of the World Heritage Site depends on adequate and sustained resourcing.
- The vision for co-operation with local landowners and maintaining close co-operation with local communities as set out in the objectives of the 2002 Plan has not been achieved to the standard aspired to. Whereas sections of the local community have availed of the use of the Visitor Centre facilities to hold local events, and local schools have conducted education programmes there, insufficient consultation has taken place during the period of the Plan on the implementation of the actions outlined within it.

## Appendix 12 Architectural Conservation Area within the World Heritage Site

### Oldbridge Estate

<p>Overlooking the site of the Battle of the Boyne, Oldbridge House is located on a bend in the Boyne which allows it to enjoy two views of the river. It is located very close to the remains of the obelisk built at Oldbridge as a memorial to the Battle of the Boyne in 1690, which was fought in the locality around the house. Consequently the site is of significant historical interest and national importance. Its location in the Buffer Zone of the World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne gives it additional status. The lands at Oldbridge were held by the Moore family (later Earls and Marquesses of Drogheda) in the 17th century. The Coddington family were established in North County Dublin since the 17th century. In 1729 John Coddington purchased the Oldbridge Estate from the 5th Earl of Drogheda and the family made their home there until a series of raids on the house in the 1970s forced them to leave. The house has not been lived in since, and the house and estate have been sold to the State which has restored the house in association with the site of the Battle of the Boyne.</p>	<p>Although quite plain in exterior appearance, the architectural quality, design and symmetry of this house are apparent. Oldbridge House is reputed to have been designed by George Darley. The 1832 alterations were carried out by Frederick Darley, a relative of the original builder. The layout of the estate's farmyards and labourers' houses is of a high standard and the house forms an interesting group with the related outbuildings, entrance gates, lodge, and the octagonal garden. The Boyne Canal and towpath encircle the estate on the north and west and feature a number of canal related structures, including locks and fish weirs. During the emergency of the 1940s a number of fortifications – blockhouses and machine gun pits were built along the Boyne, the highest density being within the Oldbridge estate.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To preserve the character of the demesne, its designed landscape and built features by limiting the extent of new development permitted within the demesne and requiring that any such development respect the setting and special qualities of the demesne.</li> <li>2. To require that all works, whether of maintenance and repair, additions or alterations to existing buildings or built features within the demesne shall protect the character of those buildings and features by the use of appropriate materials and workmanship.</li> </ol>
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# Appendix 13 AA Screening Conclusion Statement



*An Roinn  
Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta*  
*Department of  
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht*

7<sup>th</sup> January 2015

## Appropriate Assessment Screening Conclusion Statement

### Proposed Brú na Bóinne Management Plan 2015

An Appropriate Assessment screening decision has been made by the Department of the Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht regarding the proposed Brú na Bóinne Management Plan 2015.

This decision has been informed by information prepared by Scott Cawley Ltd. on behalf of the Department. This Report describes the nature of the proposed Management Plan, the nature of the European sites within its zone of influence and the relationship between the two such that any impact pathways could be identified. It has assessed any potential for direct, indirect or cumulative impacts of the proposed works on all relevant European Sites.

The Department, in its role as the competent authority, has examined likely significant effects of the proposed Management Plan on European Sites within the zone of influence of the proposed works, in light of the specific Qualifying Interests and conservation objectives of the relevant European Sites.

Having reviewed and considered this Appropriate Assessment Screening Report and general information on the nature of proposed actions under the Plan, the Department has been able to conclude that there was no likelihood of any significant effects on any European Sites arising from the proposed works, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. The main reasons for this are as follows:

1. The fact that many of the proposed actions will not result in perceptible changes to the physical, chemical and biological environment and will not translate into potential threats to the integrity of the European sites.
2. Where there are theoretical linkages between the Actions in the Plan and the sensitivities of the European sites, that protective policies referring to the need to carry out AA at a more detailed level have been included. These policies do not represent lacunae or conditions to the Plan and the Plan can be fully implemented.

Therefore it is our view, in relying on the information prepared by Scott Cawley Ltd and our review of the Management Plan, that an Appropriate Assessment is not required for these proposed works.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Duffy

Chief Archaeologist



## Appendix 14 SEA Screening body

scott  
cawley



**Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site Management  
Plan 2015**

**Screening Report for Strategic Environmental  
Assessment**

**5<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Brú na Bóinne or the ‘Archaeological Ensemble of the Bend of the Boyne’ was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1993 and refers to the complex of archaeological monuments located in a distinct U-shape formed by the River Boyne c. 4.8km west of the town of Drogheda at the estuary on the Irish Sea. Ireland has obligations under UNESCO’s World Heritage Convention in relation to the effective management of the WHS which requires that every site has an appropriate management structure in place. The Brú na Bóinne Management Plan is not a statutory document however, during its drafting all relevant statutory and non-statutory frameworks and guidelines were taken into consideration.

The proposed Management plan was subject to a determination of the likely effects of its implementation on the environment in accordance with the SEA Directive (2001/42/EEC). The SEA Directive came into force in 2004 and was subsequently transposed into Irish law through:

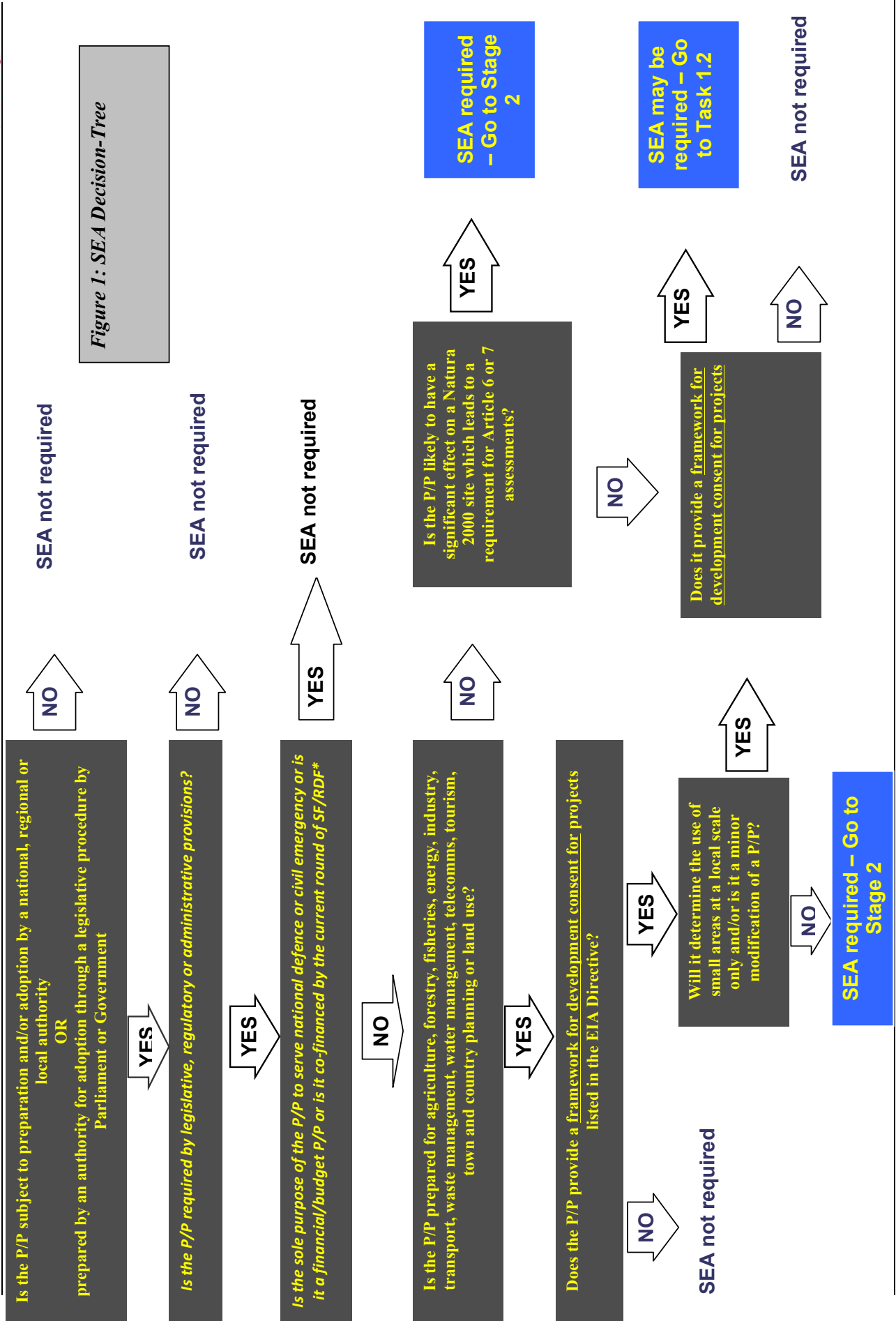
- *European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004, (S.I. No. 435 of 2004) as amended in 2011 and;*
- *Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011, (S.I. No. 201 of 2011), amending the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004).*

The Directive requires Member States of the EU to assess the likely significant environmental effects of plans and programmes prior to their adoption thus providing for the assessment of strategic environmental considerations at an early stage of the decision making process.

SEA must be prepared for plans and programmes, including those in the sectors of land use planning, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecoms and tourism. Guidance issued by the EPA in 2003 (*Synthesis Report On Developing A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Methodologies For Plans and Programmes In Ireland*) refers to the first step in the process is to determine if the Plan requires formal Strategic Environmental Assessment. This report sets out the results of this process.

## 2 STEPS IN SEA SCREENING

In accordance with the SEA Methodology Guidelines, the following “decision-tree” has been applied to determine if the SEA Directive as implemented in Ireland would actually apply.



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The SEA Guidance indicates that after applying this Decision-tree, several outcomes are possible:

1. The Plan applies to one or more of the eleven sectors quoted in the SEA Directive and provides a framework for development consent<sup>1</sup> of projects requiring EIA. It should therefore be taken forward to stage 2.
2. P/P will significantly affect a Natura 2000 site and therefore requires an assessment under the Habitats Directive. It can be moved forward to Stage 2.
3. The P/P does not fall into any of the sectors covered by the Directive and will not significantly affect a Natura site. It is therefore screened out by the pre-screening check and no further consideration of its possible impacts is required. Under such circumstances, a note highlighting the screening criteria applied and the decisions taken, would be kept on all relevant files.
4. The P/P is not screened out and may require more detailed checks to be undertaken (this will apply to small-scale P/P or minor modifications of P/P). This may involve the application of “Environmental Significance Screening Criteria” as described below.

**3 Is the P/P subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government**

The Management Plan has been produced by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in conjunction with the Office of Public Works (OPW) following extensive consultation with relevant public bodies and the local community. In accordance with UNESCO requirements, the main responsibility for the implementation of the Management Plan is shared between the DAHG and the OPW. It has been subject to public consultation and will undergo further public consultation prior to “adoption” by the Department. However no there is no statutory basis to the adoption process or the preparation of the Plan.

Therefore it was our opinion the there was an adoption stage but that this was not underpinned by any formal requirements.

**4 Is the P/P required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions?**

According to the “Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention” issued by the World Heritage Committee (July 2013) every site inscribed on the World Heritage List must have a management plan that explains how the outstanding universal value of a property will be preserved. The Brú na Bóinne Management Plan (2015)

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(1) <sup>1</sup> A “framework for development consent “could be interpreted when the P/P would lead to, or give guidance for the consent of development projects. This may be observed as the demarcation of areas zoned for specific types of development, measures which identify circumstances under which development will be encouraged or allowed, criteria which may be applied to decisions on development consent or forward programmes which identify certain types of development to be pursued in a particular sector.

has been drafted in accordance with these guidelines but it is debatable as to whether these constitute “administrative provisions”.

It was therefore not clear as to whether the Plan can be screened “out” at this stage.

**5 Is the sole purpose of the P/P to serve national defence or civil emergency or is it a financial/budget P/P or is it co-financed by the current round of SF/RDF?\***

It is clear that this does not apply the proposed Plan and therefore it cannot be screened out at this stage.

**6 Is the P/P prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecomms, tourism, town and country planning or land use?**

The function of the Plan does overlap with the tourism and land-use planning sectors so it is not clear that it could be screened out at this stage.

**7 Does the P/P provide a framework for development consent for projects listed in the EIA Directive?**

According to the SEA guidance a “framework for development consent” could be interpreted as “when the P/P would lead to, or give guidance for the consent of development projects. This may be observed as the demarcation of areas zoned for specific types of development, measures which identify circumstances under which development will be encouraged or allowed, criteria which may be applied to decisions on development consent or forward programmes which identify certain types of development to be pursued in a particular sector.”

Examination of the Plan indicates that the Actions would lend support to projects that would allow access to the Boyne Canal and Navigation and the River Boyne, with appropriate safeguards to ensure that the natural heritage was not compromised. These projects are unlikely to be proposed as a direct result of the Plan itself and are likely to receive stronger support from Local and County Development Plans.

Objective 3 could be construed as setting a framework for development consent as it states the following:

**Objective No. 3 - Statutory protection of WHS:** Agree adequate measures and procedures with Meath and Louth County Councils for inclusion in their County Development Plans for the protection of the WHS; recommend appropriate measures for adoption in the proposed updating of the National Monuments Acts.

However there is no clear link between these objectives and projects that require EIA under the EC EIA Directive and relevant EIA regulations. Therefore it is possible that the Plan could be screened out at this stage.

**8 Will it determine the use of small areas at a local scale only and/or is it a minor modification of a P/P?**

The area covered by the core area and buffer zone would be regarded to be relatively small. On the assumption that the Plan cannot be screened out at this stage, the Environmental Significance Criteria would be applied. Table 1 provides the results of applying these criteria as set out in Schedule 2 (A) of SEA Regulations 2004:

**The characteristics of the plan having regard in particular to:**

**1. The degree to which the plan sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions, or by allocating resources;**

The Plan establishes a management structure and framework for the World Heritage Site. The Plan will identify long and short term requirements and highlight the ongoing requirements e.g. key issues and actions for the ongoing protection and management of the site. There is no direct translation of the proposed actions and “hard” developments as most of the proposed actions are strategic in nature and are not location-specific.

**2. The degree to which the plan influences other plans, including those in a hierarchy.**

The proposed Management Plan is not a statutory document. The previous Plan was adopted and added as an appendix to the Meath County Development Plan (for which a full SEA was prepared and published). It is hoped that this Plan will be adopted by means of a variation by Meath and Louth County Council. It is unlikely that the influences of the Plan will be strategically significant.

**3. The relevance of the plan for the integration of environmental considerations, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.**

The sustainable management of the World Heritage Site is at the core of the Plan. The Plan supports the development of sustainable agri-tourism initiatives appropriate to the World Heritage Site. Neutral/minor positive impacts would be the most likely outcome in terms of environmental effects.

**4. Environmental problems relevant to the plan.**

There are no known existing environmental problems at the sites within the WHS area. Pressure from tourism is currently well controlled and measures are already in place to monitor and control access and tourism pressures.

**5. The relevance of the plan for the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment (e.g. plans linked to waste management or water protection).**

The Plan does not seek to implement any European Union legislation on the environment.

**Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected having regard in particular to:**

**1. The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects.**

One of the primary functions of the Management Plan is to ensure sustainable use of the cultural heritage value of the area. Therefore assuming the successful implementation of the Plan, long-term positive impacts on the appreciation of cultural

heritage would be expected. There are no reasonable probabilities of negative environmental impacts.

**2. The cumulative nature of the effects**

Policies in the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 already address many of the potential impacts of development in the Core and Buffer areas. Acting in combination, both the County Development Plan and the proposed Management Plan will provide a high degree of environmental protection.

**The trans-boundary nature of the effects:**

The WHS area straddles the Meath-Louth County border and the positive impacts of the Plan will be experienced in both Counties. The zone of influence of the Plan would be unlikely to span over the border with Northern Ireland although tourism measures may benefit visitors from Northern Ireland.

**The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents):**

There are some aspects of the Plan related to human health e.g. Objective 18 – Facilitate the provision of a walking and cycling track on the tow path but these overall are not thought to be significant and would have to be compliant with County Development Plan objectives that aim to protect against significant environmental impacts.

**The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected):**

**The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:**

- a) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;**  
The Plan will have a positive effect on the WHS.
- b) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values, and;**  
Environmental quality standards are not likely to be affected by the Plan.
- c) Intensive land-use**  
The Plan will not affect the intensity of land use.

**The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, European Union or international protection status:**

The Plan will have a positive impact on the WHS.



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## 9 SCREENING CONCLUSIONS

The proposed Management Plan was subjected to a series of procedural steps in accordance with Guidance issued by the EPA in 2003 (*Synthesis Report On Developing A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Methodologies For Plans and Programmes In Ireland*). This report sets out the results of this process.

On the basis that the Plan does not pose any reasonable risk of significant impacts on the environment and that it may not be regarded to be a “formal” plan that would normally require SEA under the EC Directive, it was determined that the Plan should not require a formal Strategic Environmental Assessment.

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# Glossary

**An Bord Pleanála / Planning Appeals Board** – Established in 1977 under the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 1976, the Board is responsible for the determination of appeals and certain other matters under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and is also the decision-making authority in relation to applications for strategic infrastructure development, including proposals for major road, railway and energy developments.

**AA (Appropriate Assessment)** – The EU Habitats Directive requires an ‘Appropriate Assessment’ to be carried out where a plan or project is likely to have a significant impact on a Natura 2000 site.

**Buffer Zone** – Area surrounding the World Heritage Site as a means of protecting the landscape setting of the World Heritage Site.

**DAHRRGA (Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht)** – Department which deals with all aspects of arts and heritage, specifically responsible for Archaeology and World Heritage.

**EU Birds Directive** – Provides legislation to protect the 500 wild bird species in Europe. It also requires member states to provide Special Protection Areas for their survival.

**EU Freshwater Fish Directive** – Council Directive on the quality of fresh waters needing protection or improvement in order to support fish life.

**EU Habitats Directive** – The Habitats Directive (together with the Birds Directive) forms the cornerstone of Europe’s nature conservation policy. It is built around two pillars: the Natura 2000 network of protected sites and the strict system of species protection.

**Heritage Services** – Section within the Office of Public Works which deals with National Monuments, conservation architecture, visitor services and other heritage buildings.

**ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites)** – International non-government organisations of professionals dedicated to the conservation of the world’s historic monuments and sites.

**IFA (Irish Farmers’ Association)** – A national organisation to represent the interests of all sectors of farming in Ireland.

**Inscription** – Formal registration of a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

**IWeBS (Irish Wetland Birds Survey)** – The Irish Wetland Birds Survey is the scheme that monitors wintering waterbirds in Ireland. The survey runs from September to March each winter.

**Land Commission** – The Land Commission was created in 1881 as a rent fixing commission by the Land Law Act 1881, also known as the second Irish Land Act. For a century it was the body responsible for redistributing farmland in Ireland.

**LiDAR** – A remote sensing technology that measures distance by illuminating a target with a laser and analysing the reflected light.

**Natura 2000** – A network of protected areas or European Sites throughout the EU.

**Nature Reserve** – An area of importance to wildlife, which is protected under Ministerial order.

**NIAH (National Inventory of Architectural Heritage)** – The purpose of the NIAH is to identify, record, and evaluate the post-1700 architectural heritage of Ireland, uniformly and consistently as an aid in the protection and conservation of the built heritage. It is a State initiative under the administration of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

**NMS (National Monuments Service)** – Section within the Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs which deals with archaeology and World Heritage.

**NPWS (National Parks and Wildlife Service)** – Responsible for the protection and conservation of the natural habitats and landscape elements of Ireland’s World Heritage Sites.

**NRA (National Roads Authority)** – Now part of Transport Infrastructure Ireland, it has overall responsibility for the planning, supervision of construction, road network management and maintenance on national roads.

**Oireachtas** – The Oireachtas (National Parliament of Ireland) consists of the President and two Houses: Dáil Éireann (the House of Representatives) and Seanad Éireann (the Senate).

**Operational Guidelines** – Guidelines for the implementation of the 1972 UNESCO World Heritage Convention, which set forth the procedure for the inscription.

**OPW (Office of Public Works)** – Manages and maintains the State's property portfolio. The OPW has responsibility for the day-to-day running of all National Monuments and National Historic Properties.

**OUV (Outstanding Universal Value)** – This underpins all World Heritage Sites, it is the quality which shows that the site is not just important on a national or regional basis but is a site which is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and is of universal importance internationally.

**PNHA (Proposed Natural Heritage Area)** – This is an area considered important for the habitats present or which holds species of plants and animals whose habitat needs protection.

**RIA (Royal Irish Academy)** – Is the principal learned society in Ireland its Standing Committee for Archaeology grant aids archaeological research.

**RMP (Record of Monuments and Places)** – A statutory list of all known archaeological monuments provided for in the National Monuments Acts. There are over 120,000 Recorded Monuments included in the RMP.

**RPS (Record of Protected Structures)** – Lists all protected structures and buildings in Ireland. This includes structures of architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, social, scientific or technical importance.

**SAC (Special Areas of Conservation)** – Defined in the European Union's Habitats Directive, also known as the Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora.

**SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment)** – The process by which environmental considerations are required to be fully integrated into the preparation of plans and programmes and prior to their final adoption.

**SPA (Special Protection Area)** – Strictly protected sites classified in accordance with Article 4 of the EC Birds Directive. They are classified for rare and vulnerable birds and for regularly occurring migratory species.

**States Parties** – Countries which have adhered to the World Heritage Convention. They thereby agree to identify and nominate properties on their national territory to be considered for inscription on the World Heritage List. States Parties are also expected to protect the World Heritage values of the properties inscribed and are encouraged to report periodically on their condition.

**Townland** – A small geographical division of land used in Ireland.

**Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)** – Is a newly established State organisation to deal with road and light rail infrastructure.

**UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation)** – A specialised agency of the United Nations which is responsible for the designation of sites nominated by State Parties for World Heritage status.

**WHS (World Heritage Site)** – A natural or man-made site, area, or structure recognised as being of outstanding international importance and therefore as deserving special protection. Sites are nominated to and designated by the World Heritage Convention.